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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Ministers Comment on Baghdad Meeting

JN2505065090 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, May 24, INA—The foreign ministers of Tunisia, Bahrain Libya, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia today left Baghdad after attending the preparatory meetings for the Baghdad Arab summit next Monday.

Speaking to INA before departure, Libyan Foreign Minister Jaddalah 'Azzuz al-Talh said the meetings were successful and that discussions were held in a constructive and brotherly atmosphere and had completed the required preparations for the Arab summit. He added that the Arab foreign ministers agreed on the summit agenda.

Tunisian State Minister for Foreign Affairs Ismail Khelil told INA that the resolutions adopted by the ministers vis-a-vis threats facing pan-Arab security would provide favourable circumstances to Arab leaders for endorsing the resolutions which would boost Arab solidarity.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak said Arab foreign ministers stressed solidarity of all Arab countries with Iraq in confronting threats facing pan-Arab security and especially those against the ascending scientific capabilities of Iraq.

He added that the ministers reviewed the Soviet Jews emigration to the occupied territories and its grave impact on the rights of the Palestinian people.

Kuwait Foreign Minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said the Arab foreign ministers discussed over two days topics related to pan-Arab security and working papers prepared by some Arab countries.

He added that the ministers recommendations were submitted to the Arab summit and said that positive atmospheres prevailed the Baghdad meetings of the ministers, which were centered on the dangerous threats and challenges facing the Arab nation during this stage of international relations. [sentence as received]

Al-Qasim on 'Positive Results' of Conference

JN2405222590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Arab foreign ministers continue to leave Baghdad after holding meetings to prepare for the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad on 28 May.

Marwan al-Qasim, [Jordanian] deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and his delegation left Baghdad today. In a statement to a radio and television correspondent, al-Qasim said: The meeting has scored a great achievement in terms of the pan-Arab perspective. He noted that it was distinguished from other meetings in terms of the positive results achieved and the frankness that prevailed in defining a basic common objective and adopting a united, common view on all issues discussed during the meeting. He added that this confirms that Arab solidarity has been achieved and that the convening of the Arab summit on 28 May in Baghdad will crown this solidarity, which has become clear.

The delegation of the Yemen Republic led by Sha'i' Muhsin also left Baghdad today. In a statement to a radio and television correspondent, Muhsin said: The positive results of the Arab foreign ministers' meeting will constitute a solid base for the Arab summit due to convene in Baghdad on Monday.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Issues Statement on Kashmir Situation

LD2505104590 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0915 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] Jeddah, 25 May (SPA)—The General Secretariat of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has called on Indian authorities to put an end to the wave of terrorism and violence in Kashmir and to look wisely and responsibly, away from hostile provocations, for suitable means to find a settlement to this issue through the Muslim people of Kashmir exercising their firm right to self-determination in freedom.

In a statement issued by General-Secretary Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, the ICO stated that "the various news reports received from different sources, including journalists and political analysts in India, reflect the regrettable oppression and violence imposed against Muslims in Kashmir."

The ICO statement, issued following its anxious monitoring of the continuing deterioration of the situation in Kashmir and the increasingly tense relations between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and India, added that "regional and international press daily publish reports on the massacres which have claimed the lives of hundreds of individuals, and during which women have been raped, houses searched, and mass arrests have taken place."

The ICO statement continued: This violence and robbery against the residents of Kashmir have now reached a level that our consciences refuse to accept. Therefore, we are called on to act urgently to ensure that the human rights of the Muslim people of Kashmir are respected, and that international peace and security in this part of the world are preserved."

The ICO General Secretariat statement pointed out that in this context it received the tragic news of the great carnage which took place on Monday 21 May, committed by the Indian regular and paramilitary forces, at the funeral of the prominent Muslim leader Shaykh Mohammed Farooq in Kashmir, who was tragically assassinated by a group of Hindus.

The ICO stressed: "According to information from Kashmir, Indian military and paramilitary forces fired on the huge crowds walking behind the cortege. This resulted in the killing of approximately 100 persons and injuring several hundred others."

The ICO announced that it: "Strongly condemns this criminal act and also the oppressive and inhumane practices of the Indian authorities in their futile attempt to destroy the Kashmiri peole who insist on exercising their proven rights, including the right to self-determination, as recognized and specified in the relevant United Nations resolutions."

The ICO General Secretariat stressed its full solidarity with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan against the unfair threats and pressures to which it is exposed.

The ICO said: "In its commitment to preserving the existing fruitful cooperation and friendship relations between India and the Islamic world and the peace and security in this region, the ICO calls on India to commit itself to establishing relations with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan based on good-neighborliness, friendship, and mutual understanding."

Palestinian Affairs

'Abbas Meeting With Shevardnadze Reported

LD2505092390 Kuwait KUNA in English 0813 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] Moscow, May 25 (KUNA)—Member of the Palestine Liberation Organization's Executive Committee Mahmud 'Abbas conferred here last night with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on the dangerous situation prevailing in occupied Arab territories following Sunday's massacres by Israeli troops. Shevardnadze was quoted as telling the Palestinian official that the Soviet Union strongly denounced the new wave of repressions by Israeli authorities against the Palestinian civilian population and demanded the immediate end of violence.

Palestinian diplomatic sources told KUNA the two sides voiced serious concern over the protracted stalemate in Mideast peace efforts and noted that the responsibility for this rests with Israel, which pursues the policy of erecting artificial barriers on the way to peace in the region.

Shevardnadze assured Mahmud 'Abbas that Moscow would give the Mideast conflict the importance it deserves during the next week's summit talks between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush.

The sources said the Soviet and Palestinian sides emphasized the need to use all opportunities, including the United Nations' potential, to break the deadlock in peace efforts and foster the negotiating process on the multi-variant basis.

The two sides agreed to hold a session of the joint Soviet-Palestinian political committee after the projected extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad next Monday and the superpowers summit three days later.

'Arafat To Attend Security Council Session

Insists on 'Practical Resolutions'

LD2405195890 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] A responsible Palestinian source has stated that the brother president and leader Abu-'Ammar, [Yasir 'Arafat] president of the state of Palestine, will attend the meetings of the Security Council scheduled to be held in Geneva tomorrow, Friday.

Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif, information adviser to the brother president leader Abu-'Ammar, will also attend the meetings of the Council and will deliver a speech to the delegates about the dangerous situation in the occupied territory resulting from the continuation of the occupation and the bloody acts of oppression being committed by the Zionist forces of occupation against our Palestinian people. He said: We do not strive to win a verbal resolution which regrets the blood of the Palestinian people which is watering the homeland: rather we insist on practical resolutions capable of being implemented, with the Security Council shouldering the responsibility for their implementation, which guarantee practically the protection of the Palestinian people and guarantee the beginning of ending the occupation and the achievement of peace.

He went on to say: This Security Council session places before the Council its direct responsibilities and the responsibilities of all the countries which signed the Geneva accords.

Regarding the PLO representative in The Hague, he declared in a press statement that Brother president Abu-'Ammar will demand that international forces be sent to the occupied land in his speech to the Security Council in Geneva. He also said that brother Yasir 'Arafat will demand the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the populated centers in the occupied land, and the dispatch of UN international forces to the occupied lands, including noble Jerusalem.

Spokesman: UNSC Must End Occupation

JN2405222390 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1824 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] A Palestinian information spokesman has said that the PLO is not seeking a rhetorical resolution from the UN Security Council [UNSC], which will meet tomorrow, Friday, expressing regret over bloodshed. He added that the PLO insists that the UNSC take practical measures.

The Palestinian information spokesman went on to say: The UNSC must shoulder its responsibilities to protect 1.7 million Palestinians living under occupation, and remove the Zionist occupation from the occupied Palestinian territories.

'Arafat Sends Messages

LD2505091590 Kuwait KUNA in English 0703 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] Tunis, May 25 (KUNA)—Palestine's president Yasir 'Arafat has sent messages to the Governments of France, Ireland and Italy concerning the ongoing dangerous situation in occupied Palestine. In his messages, 'Arafat affirmed the necessity to take flexible decisions during the international Security Council emergency meeting, to be held in Geneva Friday, toward the repressions and the bloody massacres committed by the Israeli Army against the Palestinian people and to end the Israeli occupation, Palestinian news agency WAFA said last night.

Ambassadors of the three countries to Tunisia received the messages during a meeting with 'Arafat here Wednesday night in the presence of the EEC representative in Tunisia, WAFA added.

Faruq Qaddumi: UN Action Must Halt Migration

PM2205153590 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 16 May 90 pp 1-7

[By Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi]

[Text] PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi has renewed his call for convening an international conference on the conflict in the Middle East, with the five [Security Council] states taking part to shoulder their responsibilities for the sake of arriving at a quick solution before the situation in the region worsens and before a new war erupts. This statement was made in his exclusive interview with AL-MADINAH yesterday.

He emphasized the need for the UN Security Council to take measures to stop the Jewish emigration to the occupied territories, because the United Nations is directly concerned with that question.

Qaddumi urged the Arab states to take up defensive positions capable of confronting the emigration's effects and subsequent results, namely increasing Israel's human and military forces, in order to repulse any aggression that the Zionist entity carries out against the Arab countries.

Qaddumi pointed out that all the positive initiatives fell on deaf ears with regard to the United States and Israel.

He added that the United States and Israel turned to increasing the number of emigres and transferring the Jews from all over the world to settle in what is left of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip after the seizure of most of their territory. The objective is to obstruct any peaceful attempt in the future, namely by facing the world with a new reality, that is, that these areas have become densely populated with Jews, so that the question cannot be resolved by Israel's complete withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967. But all this will eventually lead to a new war which will not be in Israel's favor.

Qaddumi noted that the Baghdad summit is urged to strengthen Arab solidarity and build Arab defenses, politically, militarily, and at the security level, in order to confront the Jewish emigration threat, Israel's direct threats, and hostile forces' threats to Iraq.

'Arafat Telephones French President Mitterrand

LD2305140790 Kuwait KUNA in English 0832 GMT 23 May 90

[Text] Tunis, May 23 (KUNA)—President Yasir 'Arafat of Palestine has telephoned French President Francois Mitterrand, said the Palestinian News Agency last night. The agency said that 'Arafat, who is currently in Aden, discussed with Mitterrand the massacres committed by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinians in the occupied Arab lands.

Leader of the French Socialist Party, Pierre Murrior, has condemned the [word indistinct] committed by the Israelis against the Palestinian people. He affirmed, in a statement last night, that neither occupation nor violence are acceptable, and stressed that peace should proceed sooner or later.

'Arafat Cables Mitterrand on Tourist Bus Attack

JN2405192890 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the PLO Executive Committee chairman, has cabled condolences to French President Francois Mitterrand. Following is the text:

I received with deep distress the news of the terrible, criminal attack on a group of French tourists in Amman, which left a number of them dead [as heard] or wounded.

In the name of our Palestinian people and my brother members of the PLO Executive Committee, and on my own behalf, I extend to your esteemed government and the friendly people of France our heartfelt condolences. We condemn this criminal act, and request that you convey our condolences and sympathies to the families of the injured.

The day before yesterday, brother Abu-'Ammar telephoned the French president to discuss developments in the occupied Palestinian land and the increasing massacres against Palestinians by Zionist occupation forces. The PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY-WAFA has learned that Abu-'Ammar expressed our Palestinian people's appreciation for President Mitterand and France's advanced position on the just struggle being waged by the Palestinian people for their freedom and independence. He also offered his condolences to families of the French victims and wounded, condemning the attack on them in Amman.

'Abd-Rabbuh Urges Revival of Arab Defense Pact

JN2205075090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 May 90 pp 1, 5

[By Lamis K. Andoni, staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Monday urged the extraordinary Arab summit which is scheduled to be convened in Baghdad next week to endorse practical, political, military and economic measures to counter Israeli "aggression" and to put pressure on the U.S. to stop its "unlimited support of Israel."

In a press conference held at the Palestinian embassy here, PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh also called for the revival of the Joint Arab Defence Pact and the closure of the Israeli embassy in Cairo "as the only appropriate and acceptable response to the Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people."

In the strongest official Palestinian reaction yet for Sunday cold-blooded murder of eight Palestinian workers by an Israeli gunman and eight other Palestinians by the Israeli army, 'Abd-Rabbuh demanded the immediate dispatch of multi-national United Nations troops to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip" to protect Palestinian civilians."

Speaking with a very determined but restrained tone 'Abd-Rabbuh challenged the Arab summit to face up to what he described as the Arab Nation's "final test..to counter the comprehensive war that Israel has started."

"Israel is practically waging a comprehensive war against the Palestinians and the Arab Nation," he said. "Therefore, the message to the Arab summit is clear... it has either to confront the challenge by endorsing practical steps to defend the Palestinian people and Arab national security or else the summit will be a total failure, which will encourage Israel to continue its expansionism."

'Abd-Rabbuh disclosed that the PLO would ask for the revival and reactivation of the joint Arab Defence Pact and for an immediate meeting for the Arab Military Council.

"The Arab summit is facing a real test," he said. "We need a new kind of policy based on the defence of Arab national interests... the summit is required to take practical steps to secure the implementation of the Joint Arab Defence Pact," he asserted.

When asked if he implied that the PLO was reviving the armed struggle option, 'Abd-Rabbuh replied: "The PLO has never abondoned the armed struggle option; it was the Arab countries who dropped it."

Consequently, the PLO will demand from the summit the reactivation of the Joint Arab Defence Pact and for the Arab Military Council to meet," he said without further elaborations.

The PLO official, however, insisted that the organisation did not condone "individual acts" of violence which distort the Palestinian people's just cause, strongly condemning the shooting in Amman yesterday of a number of tourists.

He explained that the PLO was seeking collective Arab political, military and economic action and cooperation. "We are talking about a different and more advanced form of cooperation and coordination on all levels to face up to the challenges," he said. "The Arabs should act as one bloc before it is too late...."

In the course of his elaboration on specific steps the PLO expected from the Baghdad summit, 'Abd-Rabbuh made strong hints to the possible use of international economic sanctions against Israel.

He said that the Arab summit should seek to rally international support for measures against Israel similar to those applied to all countries which violate international laws and human rights such as South Africa.

Yet, in a more dramatic statement made by the man who ironically heads the Palestinian delegation to the U.S.-PLO dialogue, 'Abd-Rabbuh implied that the organisation expected the Arab countries to use sanctions against Washington if need be.

"Arab countries should use all their abilities, and potential, including economic, political and other measures, to defend Arab national security," he said in what appeared as an apparent allusion to the 1973 Arab oil embargo.

'Abd-Rabbuh explained that the immediate task of the summit would be to make the world and particularly the U.S. accept the idea of sending international troops to the occupied territories to protect the Palestinian people. "The summit has to endorse a clear Arab position vis-a-vis the U.S. which conveys to Washington that the only option is to secure international protection for Palestinians in the occupied territories."

"It is clear obvious by now that the real obstacle towards securing international protection for the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories is the American position," 'Abd-Rabbuh said.

"The PLO believes that the summit is the Arab World's last chance. We either endorse plans which measure up to the dangers and threats or else the next war will determine the region's destiny under American hegemony."

'Abd-Rabbuh dismissed suggestions that the perpetrator of the Sunday's massacre against Palestinians was mentally ill. "He is one mad person who belongs to a mad group implementing a policy of total madness," 'Abd-Rabbuh said. "In fact, the whole Israeli policy towards the Palestinians, especially since the eruption of the intifada, is one of sheer madness."

Towards the conclusion of his conference, however, 'Abd-Rabbuh firmly asserted the PLO's commitment to its 1988 peace strategy that aims at the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.

"Any one who asks us to drop our peace strategy is practically demanding us to abondon our national Palestinian goals," he said.

'Arafat Adviser Cautions Against Bush Statements

JN2505092790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0845 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] Doha, 25 May (WAKH)—Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, has warned against being deceived by the recent statements made by U.S. President George Bush on the Israeli massacre against Palestinian workers in the occupied territories, in which he urged Israel to exercise self-restraint.

The Palestinian official said that the U.S. Administration always makes positive statements in favor of the Arabs and the Palestine question whenever there is an Arab summit conference. He expressed the hope that President Bush's statements are not a mere attempt to influence the extraordinary Arab summit, scheduled to be held in Baghdad on Monday.

In an interview with the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH published today, Hani al-Hasan stressed that the Arabs know exactly what they want and that they expect the United States to pursue a truly balanced policy in the Middle East and apply real pressure on Israel.

Regarding the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo, Hani al-Hasan said he believes this idea has completely disappeared, and that it will be difficult for the United States to fulfill this idea since it only pressures the Palestinians and excludes Israel from any pressure.

Regarding the outcome of his recent visit to Damascus, Hani al-Hasan explained that the visit was positive and fruitful, and may open a new page in Palestinian-Syrian relations.

Salah Khalaf on Egyptian Reaction to 'Massacre'

JN2305224290 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 22 May 90 p 5

[By Raja Talab]

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf (Abu-Iyad) has proposed an immediate reconciliation meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn in Amman. He said that King Husayn should take the initiative to invite the two leaders for this meeting. He added that the meeting should be attended by the Kuwaiti amir in his capacity as chairman of the Organization of Islamic Conference and Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Abu-Iyad, who was talking at a news conference at the PLO office [in Kuwait] yesterday, said that the massacre perpetrated in Gaza the day before yesterday is sufficient reason for effecting this reconciliation which can, if achieved, help bring about Arab solidarity and strengthen the Arab position.

Khalaf expressed deep regret over the lukewarm Arab reaction to this massacre. He elaborated on the Egyptian position, which he described as lukewarm. Abu-Iyad addressed the Egyptian press, which leveled scathing criticism at him in the wake of the Ismailia bus operation and said: Now, I am watching for what those reporters will say—those reporters who demanded that we apologize on behalf of those who killed Zionists, even though they knew that we did not carry out the operation. Some of those reporters will condemn this Israeli act, whereas others will remain silent because they are on Israel's payroll.

Khalaf mocked the Israeli justification for the crime—the allegation that a jilted lover was the perpetrator of the massacre. He said this ridiculous justification reveals the truth about this terrorist entity whose leaders take part in killing our people. He revealed that, since the beginning of the Palestinian intifadah, Sharon has formed underground cells within the Mosad and the Israeli army whose task is to commit massacres in order to instill fear in the hearts of the Palestinians to make them emigrate. In case this scheme fails, the Zionist enemy will attack Jordan to create a climate for massive Palestinian emigration to Jordan, Khalaf added.

Abu-Iyad said that the Palestinians must work to hold a meeting of the PLO Central Council to prepare for an emergency session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] with a view to reassessing the Palestinian peace initiative, evaluating its results—how successful or unsuccessful it has been—and to take the proper steps in light of this reassessment.

Khalaf added that, once convened, the PLO Central Council or the PNC must produce a political policy designed to convey to Israel the message that we are not begging it for peace. He said that the Arab summiteers must adopt practical resolutions representing concrete steps. The most important resolution that we desire regards a commitment by the Arabs to assist some 120,000 Palestinian workers who work in Israel under bad and humiliating conditions. He added: We are not asking the Arabs to declare war on Israel, as this is an unrealistic demand. We want to see the intifadah supported, however. Let this support come through a special agency to be formed by the Arab leaders. Such an agency must be tasked with securing the delivery of funds to these workers so that the accusations against the PLO about the delivery of these funds can end once and for all.

Khalaf stressed the need for the Arabs to declare seriously that the joint defense pact will be put into effect if Iraq, Jordan, or any other Arab state is the target of external aggression.

On Jewish emigration from the USSR, the Palestinian official called on the USSR to make a historic decision to end the Jewish emigration, now that it is clear that this emigration is taking place at the expense of Palestinian national rights and increases the Zionists' appetite for killing. He said that the USSR should chooose between its principles and its interests. He disclosed that the Yugoslav airline had rejected attractive Zionist offers to contribute to the transportation of the Soviet emigrants to the occupied Palestinian territory, despite its economic crisis.

The Palestinian official condemned the American stance and said that it is blatantly biased toward the Zionist enemy, which has even rejected the Baker plan without receiving any criticism from the U.S. Administration. He noted that what the Arabs must do is not sever relations with America, but talk with it in the language of mutual interests. He added that without a united Arab position it is difficult for the Arab countries, as individuals, to exert any kind of pressure on the United States.

He said that what is required from the Arabs, who have called for the convening of the Security Council in the wake of the massacre, is to demand earnestly the dispatch of UN forces to the West Bank and Gaza to protect Palestinian citizens—even if Washington rejects it and uses the veto against such a resolution so that this country, which claims to protect liberties, will be exposed as a superpower that protects terrorism.

Abu-Iyad announced that the PLO will not carry out acts of revenge in the wake of the massacre perpetrated the day before yesterday in Gaza. He said, however, that the PLO cannot control the reactions of the other national Palestinian forces outside the framework of the PLO.

Asked if there is now an international cover for the expected Israeli aggression against Jordan or Iraq, he noted that the cover for such an Israeli aggression would have to be American, and that such a cover is not available now. However, he did not rule out that such a cover would be available in the near future.

On the identity of the political forces that prepared the document espousing unrealistic political stands that was published in the local press recently, Abu-Iyad said that those who prepared the charter are dissidents and anti-PLO parties. However, the signatories to the document are national Arab personalities and their national stands are known. But, regrettably, these Arab personalities are being exploited to cover for the exposed and spent forces that drafted the suspect document.

Fatah Dissident Group Urges Restraint in Jordan

JN2405100190 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 May 90

[Text] On the events in Jordan, an official spokesman for the [dissident] Palestinian National Liberation Movement-Fatah [led by Sa'id Musa Muragha, alias Abu-Musa] has stated the following:

The important stand taken by our masses in Jordan, and the deep nationalistic sentiments they showed by denouncing the ugly crime committed by the Zionist occupation Army on Black Sunday, express the true patriotism of the people in Jordan and confirm their role in supporting our people's glorious intifadah in Palestine. The intifadah has been fighting the Zionist enemy on behalf of the nation's masses for more than 30 months, and has formed a shield to protect the nation, at head of which is beloved Jordan. This calls for massing all nationalistic resources to support and back the intifadah, and provide it with the means to continue and escalate.

The Fatah spokesman added: We in Fatah highly praise the militant spirit demonstrated by the Jordanian masses who expressed their solidarity with their national cause and with our people inside Palestine. We also praise the position adopted by our people in the Galilee, the Triangle, and the Negev, who stood up to express their solidarity and denunciation of the Zionist crimes. We believe that all of this constitutes proof of a united people, cause, and destiny, and a precise determination of the main party that has to be denounced and condemned—the usurper Zionist enemy.

We believe that the attempt to divert the masses' anger from its correct channel will only serve the Zionist enemy and cover its daily crimes against our people and their great intifadah. Therefore, we urge our people's masses in Jordan to refrain from the forms of spontaneous expression that will harm the intifadah itself and which may help find solutions for the parties that are being harmed by the continuation of the glorious intifadah.

The Fatah spokesman went on to say: In these momentous circumstances, we are in dire need of bolstering our national unity, closing ranks, uniting efforts, and massing resources to face the threats against our beloved Jordan and the whole nation. We must also remain as we have always been, the backers and supporters of the revolutionary and steadfast kinfolk in Palestine. We urge our militant masses to show self-restraint in foiling the attempts of those who do not want to see the country rid itself of the results of the previous phase—who conspire against Jordan, distort facts, and provoke the masses into pushing the current state of affairs into an unjustified state of confusion and tension, which will serve their hatred against the masses and Jordan.

The Fatah spokesman concluded by saying: We are certain that our people in Jordan will be able to protect their national unity and democratic achievements for the sake of Jordan's strength and invulnerability. Our Jordanian people will remain as they have always been—the supporters and backers of the kinfolk in Palestine.

Glory to our Jordanian-Palestinian people. Together on the path of struggle and victory. Revolution until victory.

[Signed] The spokesman for the Palestinian National Liberation Movement-Fatah

Fatah Dissident on Unity, PLO, Syria Ties

JN2405202290 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 20 May 90 p 14

[Interview with Sa'id Musa Muragha, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Musa, secretary of Fatah-the Uprising Movement, by Fu'ad Zaydan in Damascus—date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [AL-KHALIJ] Let us now discuss opposition within the Palestinian arena. In this regard, some people believe that it is better to maintain PLO unity and work within it to bring about change. Perhaps those who believe that now constitute the majority of factions. Others believe otherwise. What is best for Palestinian interests in the near future? Is there a chance that positions on unity may be reconsidered?

[Muragha] Yes, there are two streams opposing the [PLO] official policies:

There are four factions within the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] that strongly reject the current policies and view them as fatal for the Palestine question and not serving the Palestinian people. In fact, these policies give the enemy a chance to carry out further violations against our people and to destroy all the gains of the Palestinian cause.

There are other factions, specifically the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], which have reservations about the current policies. Their position on these policies is not outright rejection, but they object to the main policy adopted by the 19th session of the Palestine National Council in Algiers.

We condemn these comrades for their attitudes. We believe that their presence inside the PLO and their casual objections to PLO policies give further legitimacy to the PLO leadership. At the same time, they cannot affect decisionmaking. In other words, they take part in the responsibility for decisionmaking, but are unable to influence it or change it for the better in a way that they would like.

We believe the current structure of the PLO and its Executive Committee has confined loyalties to the person of the PLO chief, who acts as he wishes. We believe, therefore, that our existence outside this framework is much better, because this, at least, enables us to express our views, even though our action is limited at this stage. In fact, we are not satisfied with our role, despite our awareness of the region's circumstances, which are abetting the current political course in Palestinian affairs.

I believe any future practical steps toward a settlement, such as a Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Cairo or elsewhere, will be a turning point for the PFLP, because they will be unable to go ahead on that course under the current Palestinian leadership, and the slogan, "Unity, unity until victory" launched by [PFLP leader] George Habash will collapse. For, when we want to surrender, there will be no need for unity. Capitulation is easy and can be done by each one of us on his own. But unity is for liberation, and we need unity for liberation.

According to the information available to us, however, and judging by its practices, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine will continue to abide by, and agree with, the policy of the PLO chief.

[AL-KHALIJ] Many reports have been published recently on efforts from numerous sources seeking to unify all the Palestinian factions. What about these efforts and what point have they reached?

[Muragha] Never. Nothing of this sort has taken place.

[AL-KHALIJ] There are reports about efforts by some Arab countries. Moreover, some reports mention Syrian advice for you in this regard.

[Muragha] Not at all. No regime, liberation movement, or friend has contacted us in this regard to raise the unity issue with the PNSF factions.

[AL-KHALIJ] But reports confirm that contacts have taken place, that Khalid al-Fahum's plan is considered a response to these efforts, and that they represent the opinion of one of the PNSF factions.

[Muragha] I stress that nobody has contacted us. As for al-Fahum, he is part of the PNSF. He launched a personal initiative three months ago and called for national unity, and he did so of his own volition. No regime or political force was behind that move.

Al-Fahum launched his initiative influenced by the setbacks that have occurred in the socialist bloc, the Soviet Union's inertia on the Palestine question, and in consideration of the nationalities problems within the Soviet Union itself. Therefore, al-Fahum felt we had lost a longtime friend, ally, and supporter. This is in addition to the absolute U.S.-Zionist rejection of Palestinian rights despite all the concessions made by the current leadership.

For all these reasons, Khalid al-Fahum thought that the Palestinian leadership needed to be rescued and called back. Those circumstances coincided with a feeling that a Syrian-Egyptian rapprochement was developing. Al-Fahum thought it was the right time for the PLO leadership to abandon its political approach and meet with the factions rejecting this approach in order to draw up a new political line.

Al-Fahum's estimations were incorrect. He did not consult his allies in the PNSF factions on such a move, which surprised us as we heard about it from radios and newspapers. We met with him to discuss the grounds of his call and to inquire whether he felt that the PLO leadership was in trouble and ready to go back on its policy and whether that was proposed and backed by Arab sides.

Al-Fahum's answer was that nothing of that sort had taken place and that his initiative stemmed from an "assessment of the situation." It turned out the "assessment of the situation" was incorrect and untimely. As the call coincided with the beginning of a rapprochement between Syria and Egypt, many considered it a reflection of the Arab will.

A week later, we met with [Syrian Vice President] 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam to discuss the initiative. A feeling of displeasure with al-Fahum dominated the meeting, because he raised the issue without referring to our demands in the PNSF on how to conduct this meeting, as Hamas did later when it set the condition that all political moves taken by the PLO since 1988 be abolished.

[AL-KHALIJ] Many reports have been disseminated about a dialogue between Syria and the PLO and an imminent rapprochement between the two sides. What information do you have on this? How would such a reconciliation reflect on your situation in Syria?

[Muragha] We have heard about this, just like other people. Any change in relations between the two sides means nothing to us.

At any rate, the last official word we heard from the Syrian brothers was about a month and a half ago, during a separate meeting with [Syrian Foreign Minister] Faruq al-Shar' to discuss developments and views concerning the Palestine question. In view of the too-many statements that we read in the press about an imminent visit by a delegation, we asked him about it. Faruq al-Shar's answer was: "Honestly, they have made no official request to visit Syria so far. We read in the newspapers, just like you, that a Palestinian delegation will arrive soon, that the situation is ready, and the time is ripe. How the situation became ready, how the time became ripe, or who will come, we know nothing about."

Al-Shar' added: "However, we tell you frankly, if they request a visit, we will welcome them."

This means that until now, nearly a month later, all that we have been hearing over the past two years, from persons ranging from Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] to 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, about the formation of a delegation, the date of the visit, and that the time is ripe, is baseless, except that the Syrians, as they told us, are ready to receive any delegation.

As how this would affect us, based on our understanding of the Syrian position on the Arab-Zionist conflict, we believe that Syria is not very eager to deal with the existing political program, be it Palestinian or Arab. We do not believe that any delegation will change Syria's current policy.

What we are interested in as far as Syria is concerned is its policy. Even if this policy is changed by the visit of a PLO delegation—or the visit of Carter, who is more important and influential, or the visit of U.S. Congressmen, who are much more important—our position on Syria will continue to be based on its position on the Palestine question, not the position of whoever visits Syria. Our position will not be affected by any change in Syrian policy. We do not believe or feel, however, that Syrian policy is going to change from what we know and understand it to be now. Our relations with any Arab regime are based on that regime's position on our view of the nature of the conflict, not vice versa. We declare our position toward any regime clearly and explicitly. We have remained in Syria so far because we are able to express our views and to serve our objectives, within the limits of what is possible at present, and in a better atmosphere than anywhere else in the states surrounding Palestine. [passage omitted]

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid, Al-Baz Depart for Syria 24 May

NC2405130490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1239 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 May (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, head of the President's Office for Political Affairs, left Cairo for Damascus this afternoon.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid will deliver a message from President Husni Mubarak to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad concerning the preparations for the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to be held in Baghdad on 28 May.

Syria Decides To Halt Anti-Iraq Media Campaigns

NC2405151690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1458 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Damascus, 24 May (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' immediately upon his arrival in Damascus today to deliver a mesage from President Husni Mubarak to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz, head of the President's Office for Political Affairs and first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, Assistant Syrian Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, Egyptian Ambassador in Damascus 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi, and Syrian Ambassador in Cairo Dr. 'Isa Darwish also attended the meeting.

Following the meeting, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said he will meet with President Hafiz al-Asad to hand him President Mubarak's message.

It is believed in Damascus that the message from President Mubarak that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid is carrying continues Egyptian efforts—which President Mubarak began with his recent visit to Damascus—to narrow the gap between Damascus and Baghdad and persuade President al-Asad to attend the Baghdad summit.

These efforts bore fruit when President al-Asad agreed to receive Iraqi envoy and Justice Minister Akram 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Ali, who on Tuesday handed President al-Asad President Saddam Husayn's invitation to attend the Arab summit. This meeting was considered a move toward improving relations between the two countries.

MENA has learned that Damascus has decided to halt media campaigns against Iraq completely as of today.

Ambassador on Bush-Mubarak Telephone Conversation

NC2505075590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0637 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] Washington, 25 May (MENA)—Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Ridi, the Egyptian ambassador here, has stated Soviet Jewish emigration was discussed during the telephone conversation two days ago between President Mubarak and U.S. President George Bush.

Ambassador al-Ridi said President Bush had informed President Mubarak the United States has decided to increase the number of Soviet immigrants it will take in the current fiscal year to 70,000. The Egyptian ambassador referred to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's recent news conference in which he stated the United States admitted 14,000 Soviet Jews in 1988, and the number did not exceed 50,000 immigrants last year.

Al-Ridi pointed out the conversation had touched on a number of current topics and issues of common interest.

Writer Barred From Syria Because of Iraq Visit

JN2505082190 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 23 May 90 p 4

[Text] Syrian authorities prevented Egyptian writer Ibrahim Fathi from entering Syria when he arrived at Damascus airport last Saturday. He was forced to return to Cairo on the same plane.

The Syrian official in charge of airport security said there is a policy banning anyone who has attended a conference in Iraq from entering Syria. Writer Ibrahim Fathi attended the al-Marbad festival in 1987. It also is known Arabs do not need a visa to go to Damascus.

Sudanese Interior Minister Departs After Visit

NC2505075790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 May (MENA)—Sudanese Interior Minister Staff Major General Faysal Abu-Salih left Cairo early this morning after a four-day visit. During his visit, he met with President Mubarak and held talks with Egyptian officials.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Comments on Hostages, Recent Issues

PM2405170190 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 25 May 90 pp 24-26

[Interview with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by Milhim Karam at "a farm on the outskirts of Tripoli"; date not given]

[Text] Karam: Leader, your initiative in releasing the French hostages was met with an all-around human welcome. Is there any new intercession for the release of other hostages, and how, as a matter of principle, do you view hostage-taking?

Al-Qadhdhafi: To the first part of your question, I say that if there were any possibility of contributing to the release of any hostage, regardless of his nationality or the state he came from, I would spare no effort to do so; but we do not know much in this connection. In the cases of a large number of hostages it is not known who or what side kidnapped them and for what reason. On the occasion of this interview I hereby declare: If the states that have had hostages taken would supply us with a list of those hostages, information about them, the dates they were kidnapped, and the parties they suspect of kidnapping them, then we would make efforts with those parties. This is an opportunity.

On the second part of your question, which is the more important, I say that this phenomenon did not emerge in a vacuum. There are real reasons for it. Regrettably, we have omitted to deal with the main cause and have begun tackling the symptoms. The world is now dealing with the effects, not the causes. It should have tackled the causes of this phenomenon. This phenomenon has justifications and causes. We must ask: Why were the groups that kidnap such people formed, and why do they kidnap certain people who are nationals of certain states? Kidnapping is not an end in itself, nor is it a case of madness. It is aimed not in all directions but clearly and specifically against citizens of Western states. Why hasn't a Russian national been kidnapped, or an Indian, an Argentinian, or a Brazilian? Kidnapping has been confined to certain states. This means that this matter is related to the Middle East conflict, and it means that the states that support the Israeli entity in Palestine are the target of these groups. Furthermore, these groups were born as a reaction to the violation of and contempt for Arab rights, colonialism, and organized terrorism of the United States and Israel, which resulted in covert, random counterterrorism in retaliation against official terrorism. We must realize this fact; and, if the West continues to align entirely with the Israelis and to ignore the Arabs and ignore the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, then I expect an escalation and proliferation of violence everywhere. There will be no hope of any other solution. We should not delude ourselves into thinking that terrorism and violence are beginning to abate. On the contrary, this means that violence is taking a step backward to prepare to take two steps forward. An explosion could occur in the world, with a spread of violence by increasing numbers of angry groups, by struggling groups which would say that they had been provoked and had lost patience and so crossed the red line, because we cannot control the angry reaction anywhere to Israeli and American actions. We fear that new secret groups will be born, even if we do manage to tame the present violent groups. New secret groups of a new generation, more widespread and more violent, will be born. This phenomenon did not come out of a vacuum. We must undertand that. Furthermore, calling for the release of Western hostages without the release of the Easterners or Arabs from Western jails is unacceptable. I made an appeal, it was answered, and some hostages were released; but in response I was told that the release of Western hostages should be in return for the hostages in the United States and Britain. There are even Libyan hostages in Britain and Italy—students who were studying in Britain and who were arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment. Indeed, the objectors point to the terrorism of the Israelis, who are holding Palestinians, Lebanese, and other Arabs; so why don't we talk about the release of Arab hostages held by the Israelis? They told me: For your sake we have released some hostages, but we must kidnap more like the hostages we are holding to force the West to release Arab hostages. In actual fact, the West, the Western states and the Israelis were the ones to start the violations and the recklessness. They were the ones who broke the provisions of international law, and they are the ones who are still giving refuge to and protecting people wanted by Interpol; and they support secret terrorism against Arab revolutionary countries. They stand condemned because they started these practices. Now there is only talk of terrorism in the Middle East, of Palestinian terrorism, when the truth is that, through organized terrorism, there are hostages from the Middle East in Western countries. Criminals wanted by Interpol are protected by Western governments. We challenge them to reexamine the Interpol files to confirm to everyone that terrorists who have broken international law are protected by the Western states. That is why there will be no full response to the appeal I have made, unless the Western states abide by international law. Many groups in the Middle East have told me in response that that appeal should be addressed to the West, urging it to protect human rights and international law and withdraw from the Middle East. The United States should withdraw its bases and its nationals and its arms and should stop its interference if we are to stop actions of that kind—or else, they would say, we may expect more hostage taking and more violence. This phenomenon should be understood as it is, and so should the logic that dictates it.

Karam: Do you believe the Negev exercises are aimed against Libya and are a preparation for a U.S. aggression, bearing in mind the similarities in the desert terrain where the exercises were carried out?

Al-Qadhdhafi: That is a link in the chain of provocations and terrorism we have been taking about, a link in the chain of official terrorism. There can be no doubt that the purpose of all the U.S. exercises is to learn how to occupy the Arab homeland. It once occupied Europe in World War II and landed troops in Normandy and Italy. It occupies Europe to this day. The new role looks to occupy North Africa and the Middle East. Now all U.S. exercises anywhere in the region, the Mediterranean, with Arab or European states are training in how to occupy the Arab homeland. It is the Arab homeland's turn: It will be the next victim.

Karam: In your view, will unanimity be achieved at the Arab summit conference? Will it fulfill its objectives? Why did you promptly agree to attend? Is there a special reason?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Yes, by God, I will attend the summit and I hope it will succeed and achieve its objectives. I agreed to attend because we support Iraq against the United States and the Israelis. Libya now faces the same threat as Iraq. We are in the same trench. Apart from that, I have another opinion about the Arab summit. What is proposed at this summit is completely contrary to the Casablanca summit, which we opposed. Despite what the Casablanca summit offered, there was no reciprocation from the United States. Quite the opposite: After the Casablanca summit conference the United States decided that Jerusalem is the capital of Zionism—which means nonrecognition and destruction of the very basis of a Palestinian state. That was the response to Casablanca. Then all East Europe recognized the Zionist entity. Only Libya took a different stand. The Americans showed no flexibility and made no peaceful or friendly moves toward the Arabs. On the contrary, they announced that Jerusalem is the capital of the Jewish state and abolished the Palestinian state. That is now on the Baghdad agenda, and so is the question of taking a stand different from that taken in Casablanca. That is why I welcome this conference and will attend it.

Karam: Do you not believe that a reconciliation between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn is a necessity that would strengthen Arab unity and Arab forces? What has been achieved in that respect?

Al-Qadhdhafi: What this means is that if the Arab ranks were not so divided there would have been no such enemies. Is this a conflict between Persians and Arabs? Turks and Arabs? Americans and Arabs? Jews and Arabs? The conflict or dispute on that level between these two fraternal sides is one of the tragedies of the current phase. One is ashamed to talk about anything of that kind. Each of them is a Ba'thist and a revolutionary working for the liberation of Palestine. Their territory is one and the same and their people are one and the same, yet there is a conflict or a dispute. We must work for reconciliation between them, assuming that it is not a dispute over power and who is to rule. That has been overtaken by the current phase, because this is the era of the masses and rule by the masses, and there should be no need for reconciliation efforts.

Karam: The Arabs had wagered that President Bush would be more understanding and would have sounder logic in his view of the Jamahiriyah than his predecessor. Has he given any evidence of that?

Al-Qadhdhafi: So far, he has proved nothing as far as Libya is concerned. There is nothing new, but what he did in Panama was similar to what Reagan did in Grenada. I believe that Bush can be expected to act as Reagan's deputy until the end of his term, because he was Reagan's vice president and with him he represented a certain policy. Reagan was finished and was replaced by Bush, who again began acting as if he were Reagan's deputy.

The truth is that to this moment Bush has not become President of the United States. We view him as a vice president until he sheds the Reagan policy.

Karam: The Gulf war must be settled. Do you not believe that the state of no peace, no war between Iraq and Iran keeps the file in the hands of the two giants?

Al-Qadhdhafi: The two giants have many files and preoccupations. The Gulf war does not take priority in their attentions. In other words they have now put it aside, they have frozen it until after they settle their accounts in other regions. And, if it is not resolved, they could again come back to benefit from and exploit it. My advice to both countries is that they should quickly resolve the problem, before the giants settle their scores and return to the Gulf once again to resolve its crisis in their interests and at the expense of the warring parties.

Karam: Has unity with Sudan taken a practical and official course?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Nothing stands in the way of Arab unity except some Arab rulers. In practical terms, there is unity between the same Arab people of Libya and Sudan, or of Iraq and Mauritania. It is one people and one homeland. Some ideas, which must be rectified, have erected gates and introduced different laws and passports. This, thank God, is the age of the people, and they will consolidate unity.

Karam: Some senior politicians maintain that Egypt is in the blood and in the heart of leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. How true is that?

Al-Qadhdhafi: It is 100 percent true.

Karam: You love Egypt very much?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Of course. It is in my blood, in my links, and in my identity.

Karam: What has the Maghreb Union achieved, and is it moving actively to fulfill the commitments it made?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I refer this question to Maghreb Union Chairman President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, because he is the chairman for this current term.

Karam: What about Nasirism in the absence of its founders, and what about the heirs of 'Abd-al-Nasir and Nasirism?

Al-Qadhdhafi: By God, you know the answer to that. Why do you ask me?

Karam: Can religious movements be an alternative to Nasirism? And what is your opinion of them?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Actually, if religious movements had emerged 20 or 50 years ago they might possibly have succeeded. However, their emergence now has come too late, because the peoples will not consent to be ruled by a specific group, in the name of either religion, the military, revolutionism, or anything else.

This is the age of the masses, and no religious group can rule any society now. Nor can a revolutionary group rule a society. This is because this age has transcended that. No one is responsible for anyone. It is a desperate attempt, but I thank its proponents if they are still alive [tayyibin]. But it has no future. It is a desperate attempt. In fact it is a tempest in a teacup.

Karam: You have always devoted the utmost attention to Arab youth. Are there any new plans for it in addition to what has already been achieved?

Al-Qadhdhafi: The new young are the angry generation, who will change the balances that are not in the nation's interests. The term "angry generation" used to be ridiculed by people who asked: "So, where is this angry generation?" Here it is, in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The revolution and the intifadah are led by the generation we are talking about. In my view, we must not surround the youth with an atmosphere of luxury at this stage. On the contrary, we must prompt them to be austere, so that a change can take place. And, once it has taken place, a society of prosperity can be built—a society in which the elderly, the youth, and the children find enjoyment and happiness.

Karam: The jamahiriyah as a system is regarded as an example and a model. Have all its aims been implemented in Libya, and who has adopted it from you?

Al-Qadhdhafi: This experiment will change the entire world, and it has to be judged not over these years but maybe after a generation or more. We cannot assess it so quickly. The entire world has adopted it from us. I consider all that is happening in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe is moving according to the orientations of the jamahiriyah theory. It is not necessary for them to have read or applied "The Green Book." But "The Green Book's" predictions are prevailing in the world now. And I consider that what has happened in East Europe is moving according to "The Green Book" and will continue around the world.

Karam: And has it achieved all its objectives in Libya?

Al-Qadhdhafi: First, no prophet is respected in his homeland. Missions do not usually spread in their homeland. For instance, Christ was brought up in Palestine, and Christianity spread in Europe, yet he was persecuted in his own homeland. And the first people to fight the Prophet Muhammad were his own relatives and tribe, whereas at the same time other groups outside his kinfolk and tribe believed in him.

Karam: Is the relationship with Britain moving toward correction, and has London shown any sign in that direction?

Al-Qadhdhafi: There is nothing new. We do not need the relationship with Britain. Even if Britain wants to restore its relations, we do not need them. And I believe it is they who have been harmed and suffered a loss. I believe that their confrontation with Libya and their hostility to Libya has cost them a heavy price, which they are still paying.

Karam: Your Excellency, leader, are ties with Ireland good, and are you supplying it with arms and aid?

Al-Qadhdhafi: We regard the Ireland issue an issue of colonialism. Britain is colonizing it and torturing the citizens there for religious reasons. This is extremely savage and barbarous. Britain is currently torturing a people for religious reasons, namely because they adopted a creed and a faith different from Britain's. It is torturing the Catholics because they are not Protestants. So, we support that cause and consider it a just and historic cause.

Karam: What has so far been achieved with regard to the "great artificial river" aimed at irrigating the desert and making it fertile? And are you satisfied with the way it is being implemented?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Yes. Everything is in excellent order and progressing according to the program.

Karam: Was the aggression against and the burning and destruction of the al-Rabitah plant carried out by the United States, by Germany, or by both jointly? And what of the Italian Technoglass company's denial of DER SPIEGEL magazine's report about helping you to build a plan for nuclear weapons in Sabha?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Investigations are still continuing, and there are German suspects who are currently detained. Other elements are also detained and being investigated. We cannot say anything until the investigation stages are completed. As for the nuclear station, it is not part of our program to manufacture nuclear weapons. In fact we demand their destruction throughout the world. With our capabilities we cannot manufacture a nuclear bomb. However, we urge the Arabs to manufacture an atomic bomb against the Israeli atomic bomb if they want this region to be free from atomic weapons. And especially as the Israelis have brought atomic weapons to the region, there has to be an Arab deterrent which could lead to the elimination of the atomic presence from the Arab countries once they acquire it from Israel. [sentence as published] And that requires complete Arab efforts. Libya cannot do it on its own. So, Libya has no military nuclear program.

Karam: Has the international conference been ignored, or are the attempts still being made to convene it?

Al-Qadhdhafi: The Israelis are opposed to it, and I believe no attention is being paid to it.

Karam: Is it true that in 1986 you decided to attack U.S. bases in Crete, but you abandoned the idea for humanitarian reasons and because of your close relations with Greece?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Yes, true, and the reason was only humanitarian and for the sake of the safety of the relationship with a friendly state. We informed our friends who were in power in Greece, and they said that human losses would be great among Greek citizens, and that there was not sufficient time to evacuate the residents from the region.

Karam: What provoked President Samuel Doe of Liberia to say what he said?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Who is he? What is his name? What did he say?

Karam: He said that the Jamahiriyah interferes and helps the opposition in his country.

Al-Qadhdhafi: I have not heard of that president at all. It is the first time I have heard of him, and I have never met him, even at conferences.

Karam: Are you satisfied with security in the Mediterranean?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Not at all. All the peoples of the Mediterranean are expressing their great concern about the foreign fleets' presence in the sea, the conducting of maneuvers, the Israelis' presence, the aggression against Libya, the occupation of Ceuta and Melilla, and the British bases in Cyprus. What does this mean? It means that the Mediterranean is a powder keg.

Karam: What about the Chad issue? What are the differences with it, and what are the reasons for the accusations launched by Chad?

Al-Qadhdhafi: It is an unresolved tribal conflict inside Chad. And it will continue until the day of final judgment. But there is no state called Chad. The truth is that it is a region which was left between the colonialist states. The British occupied Sudan and Nigeria. The French occupied Central Africa and Niger. And the Italians occupied Libya. So, a desert area was left over from the African jungles. It contains a mixture of races, religions, and tribes. They do not even have a common language. They called it metaphorically "Chad," and the French still rule there. There is a conflict among these tribes, and what is happening is not a Libyan-Chadian problem.

Karam: Do you believe that the remaining communist regimes—namely, China, Cuba, North Korea, and Albania—will collapse after what has happened in East Europe?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I believe communism or Marxism as a reaction to capitalism emerged in the 18th century [as published] and has done its job and ended. And it cannot continue spontaneously for any longer, even without the United States, without imperialism, and without anything else. This is its age, as an experiment which is the prisoner of 18th century ideas. It has been transcended by present developments. What imposes itself now is the age of the masses. This is the Third World theory. "The Green Book's" ideas will find their way into the world, because they are capable of resolving that argument and can answer all these questions. All the pressures in the world are moving toward achieving this result: partners, not hired hands. And the pluralism raised by the parties in East Europe now is a step toward the jamahiriyah.

Karam: Has President Gorbachev succeeded or failed? And should the Arabs continue to support him?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Yes, the Arabs must continue to support him. As to whether he has succeeded or not, this is premature, and we cannot judge him now. We should give him a new and longer chance.

Karam: What do you think of the imminent summit between the Soviet and U.S. presidents, and the possible results?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Nobody knows the secrets of superpower strategies. They decide and we pay the price. What is painful is that we find out after having already paid the price.

Karam: Have relations with Jordan been fully restored?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Of course. They were normal anyway. Everything is now as it was before.

Karam: What is the way to stop the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, and what are the dangers?

Al-Qadhdhafi: The dangers are known: expansion at the expense of Arab territory beyond Palestine and the creation of a greater Israel. These are its known dangers to the Arabs. As far as the Jews are concerned, the dangers are that they would gather in Palestine and the Arabs might win a victory against them and might be able to annihilate them comletely in Palestine. How can it be stopped? There is no way of stopping it. That immigration has been decided by the United States and Russia. If we decided to fight the United States and Russia, would we defeat them? With what would we defeat them?

Karam: The Lebanese question will be one of the topics to be tackled by the summit conference. What, in your view, is the effective way to resolve the Lebanese crisis? Will President al-Hirawi be visiting you?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Yes, the Lebanese president will be visiting Libya and some other countries. As regards solving the problem, it is difficult, and not in the ways suggested. I envisage a solution: Either all the Christians become Muslims or all the Muslims become Christian, provided that the Muslims do not become Sunni, Druze, or Shi'ite and the Christians do not become Maronite, Orthodox, or Catholic. The Lebanese problem would be solved if that could be achieved. This matter could be proposed to the new generation, to those who have not gone beyond the stage of preparatory and basic education: "All be Christian Lebanese Arabs without sects, or Muslim Lebanese Arabs without sects." Yes, they might agree to that, with the establishment of a jamahiri system in Lebanon which would then become a jamahiriyah without a president or a government but without people's congresses or committees. That would be the successful solution for a country like Lebanon.

Gorbachev Sends Al-Qadhdhafi Africa Day Message

LD2405162490 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received congratulations on the Africa Day from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in which he affirmed this year's event has a special importance, as it has coincided with Namibia gaining independence due to combined efforts of the revolutionary and progressive forces in Africa.

In his congratulations to the international revolutionary Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, President Gorbachev said: I congratulate you on this historic triumph we celebrate together with you, and the Soviet Union agrees with the African liberation forces that Africa's freedom cannot be complete as long as the apartheid regime is still present in the south of the African continent. He also said: We welcome African countries' efforts to secure peace, stability and provide the material and human resources to resolve the urgent problems of development on this continent.

In the message of congratulations he sent to the brother leader of the revolution, President Gorbachev affirmed the Soviet Union is ready to develop relations of friendship and cooperation with the African countries and their peoples based on mutual benefit and justice, and that he insists on the importance of the role of this continent in strengthening the pillars of peace and security in a world free from violence and nuclear weapons.

JANA Welcomes Unification of Two Yemens

LD2305231390 Tripoli JANA in English 1641 GMT 23 May 90

[Text] Tripoli, Al-MAA [May] 23, Jamahiriyah News Agency—Arab affairs editor at JANA has welcomed the promulgation of the establishment of unified Yemen Arab Republic bringing back to Yemen its natural status.

The editor says that as it is said "one ought to go back to Sanaa even when one is away for a long time". And as the announcement of the establishment of the unified Yemen Arab Republic made on 22 instant. We extend our congratulations to the unionist leader Col. Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi. The announcement of this unity is a fruit of the strenuous efforts and continuing endeavours of the leader of the revolution to achieve it among the brothers in San'a and Aden. He has repeatedly stressed that the realisation of the Yemeni unity is but an important foundation for achieving the all-encompassing Arab unity. Under his auspices, San'a charter was reached and concluded on 26/11/1972 in Tripoli.

It is a historic occasion to extend our congratulations to the rank and file masses of the Arab nation and our brothers in the one Yemen for this great civilised achievement representing a fundamental base for securing the future of our Arab nation.

The editor stresses that unity and integration unity is a natural thing. It has to be achieved thanks to the struggle of the Arab masses—the sole beneficiary from this achievement which the Arab masses from the Atlantic to the Gulf has been struggling to bring into being.

He adds that this accomplishment has blocked the way once and for all against those supportive to regionalism foiling all their abortive attempts to undermine any act conducive to achieving Arab unity. Apart from being a reconfirmation to the Arab nationals that the positive road towards victory and emanicipation is the one of merger and unity in a world where only the strong can survive.

This qualitative advance step in the process of unionist Arab action makes it more urgent than ever to move from the stage of Arab solidarity and cooperation to putting forward the political and demographic merger stepping up daily the process of the cohesion of the masses of the Arab nation to bring into being a new era in which the Arab nation can be strong and proud—this action will be in fulfillment of the struggle of our forefathers, apart from safeguarding a promising future for the oncoming generations.

Kuwait

Shaykh Sabah Hails Foreign Ministers Meeting

LD2405131290 Kuwait KUNA in English 1001 GMT 24 May 90

[Excerpt] Kuwait, May 24 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shakh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah returned home Thursday from Baghdad after attending the Arab foreign ministers meeting. In an arrival statement, Shaykh Sabah commended the atmosphere of the foreign ministers' meeting and said it copes with the serious threats and challenges facing the Arab nation. He added the participants discussed, during the past two days, issues to be tabled at the summit's agenda, scheduled to convene in the Iraqi capital on May 28.

Shaykh Sabah expressed his pleasure for attending the arab foreign ministers meeting and appealed to Almighty to enable the Arab leaders to achieve their aspirations for the benefit of the world. [passage omitted]

Amir, Malian President Traore Discuss Relations

LD2405134190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1031 GMT 23 May 90

[Text] Kuwait, May 23 (KUNA)—President of Mali Mussa Traore Wednesday had talks with H.H. the amir at Bayan Palace on bilateral relations and means to develop them in all fields. The minister of amiri diwan affairs said that the talks also dealt with the [word indistinct] Arab and African issues in addition to issues of mutual concern. He said talks were conducted with cordial atmosphere and characterized by mutual understanding and friendship spirit.

Qatar

Official Joint Talks With Cyprus Begin 21 May

JN2205144290 Manama WAKH in English 1620 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] Doha, May 21 (GNA)—Official talks were held here today between the Qatari side led by H.H the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani and the Cypriot side under President George Vasiliou. QATAR NEWS AGENCY said that the talks dealt with a number of regional and international matters of mutual concern as well as relations between the two friendly coutries .

President Vasiliou briefed H.H the amir on the latest developments of efforts aiming at reaching a settlement for the Cypriot problem and the outcome of talks held between the concerned parties under the sponsorship of the UN secretary general .

The agency said that the Qatari side has shown great attention to reaching a suitable format for finding a solution to this problem acceptable to all concerned parties and ensuring to each party its rights and interests in order to maintain peace and stability in Cyprus and the region and to provide appropriate atmospheres for achieving further progress and prosperity .

They also discussed the Middle East and the developments of the Palestinian problem. The two sides underlined the need for achieving a lasting, just and comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 to guarantee the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people and to save the region from the dangers of instability.

QNA also learned that the two sides reviewed the developments and changes international relations have witnessed recently and their impact on the international situation, especially on the causes of the Third World and the non-aligned countries. These impacts included the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union and East Europe to Israel and the settling of a large numbers of them in the occupied Arab terrtories.

The talks also dealt with a number of other issues of interest to the Qatari and Cypriot sides including efforts seeking to achieve a lasting peace between Iraq and Iran. The two sides expressed satisfaction with and optimism over the good initiatives and the contacts currently under way between the two countries which aim at pushing ahead efforts to achieve comprehensive settlement for the Iraq-Iran conflict on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Regarding Qatari-Cypriot relations, the two sides discussed means of fostering cooperation between the two friendly countries in various fields including the economic, trade, industrial and technological sectors.

The talks session was attended by a number of Qatari ministers and the delegation accompanying the Cypriot president, who arrived in Doha from Kuwait yesterday.

Iranian Agriculture Minister Arrives on Visit

JN2505095590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] Doha, 25 May (WAKH)—Iranian Agriculture Minister Dr. Issa Kalantari arrived in Doha this morning on a three-day visit to Qatar. He was received by Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbur Al Thani, minister of agriculture and municipal affairs and acting minister of electricity and water resources, and a number of officials.

Saudi Arabia

Iran Stirs 'Sedition' Among Hajj Pilgrims

JN2505090290 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 23 May 90 p 1

[Editorial: "No Obscenity in the Hajj"]

[Text] As in every year, the competent authorities have made an early start to get ready for the hajj season. The directives issued by the custodian of the two holy mosques—may God protect him—to the Council of

Ministers at its latest session confirm the great concern which the government has for hajj services, which aim to provide all comfort and tranquillity to those arriving to perform the hajj or 'umrah. The broadlines for the hajj plan for this year were discussed during that session, and the custodian of the two holy mosques—may God support him—has issued his noble directives to all ministers concerned with the hajj, each from his position, to carefully and closely follow up on all phases of this plan. He also instructed all employees join efforts to provide the best standard of service to the pilgrims, as was the case in past years when they achieved great success, thanks be to God.

While the Kingdom continues to pursue its efforts to facilitate the hajj and spends generously on projects in the two holy cities, certain ill-wishers try to distort or harm these efforts with unjustified lies and false claims, which have been denounced by Muslims. Islamic leaders have denounced the claims made by those people, who concoct fabrications to justify their failure to lead their countries. They have prevented the Iranian pilgrims from performing the hajj because of economic difficulties. However, they could not come out with any justifications except those that were denounced by the 'ulemas of Islam. They also insist on stirring up sedition among pilgrims who come to perform the hajj—not to get involved in riots and clamorous demonstrations.

The Iranian resistance was the first to denounce the Tehran rulers' behavior. The statement issued by the Iranian resistance stressed that the Iranian Government is against humanity and Islam. It also stressed that the exported terrorism and disrespect for religious or political norms and values are characteristic of that government.

The Iranian peoples know the true nature of their government, because they are in close touch with this reality, and they suffer the consequences. Like all other Muslims, the Muslims of Iran know that there should be no obscenity, no wickedness, and no wrangling in the hajj.

Newspaper Views Israeli 'Annihilation War'

PM2405141790 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic
21 May 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Israel Declares Annihilation War"]

[Text] The massacre committed by the Zionists in the heart of occupied Palestine yesterday is no coincidence. Nor is it an accidental incident committed by a "madman," as Zionist investigation circles claim.

The ugly crime, which at the time of writing has claimed eight lives and led to 10 being wounded, seven seriously, falls under a Zionist scheme designed to step up violence and aggression against the legitimate owners of the land with a view to emptying the occupied Arab territory of its owners and settling Soviet Jewish emigres there.

The abominable Zionist crime comes in the wake of an armed escalation of Zionist violence by armed Zionist settlers against unarmed Palestinians in the occupied territories. It also falls within the framework of the campaigns led by the fanatic extremists of the Gid'on movement, Tehiya, and Kach, which all call for the Palestinians' expulsion from the territory, specifically to Jordan, according to the theory the terrorist Sharon adopts openly and to which the terrorist Shamir secretly gives his blessings.

But nevertheless the massacre which the "madman" in question committed in the heart of Israel yesterday and the massacre carried out later by the Zionist occupation forces in the Gaza Strip and occupied West Bank, where they killed with their bullets seven martyrs and wounded about 350, represent a turning point in the conflict, because the means used by the Zionists yesterday reflect a clear qualitative change in the continuing conflict between the legitimate owners of the land and the Zionists usurpers.

What happened in the occupied territories yesterday and in the heart of occupied Palestine is a war of annihilation whose theoretical foundations are declared in the policies of small parties which Zionist Prime Minister Shamir is currently seeking to appease in order to enter into an alliance with him.

Its practical foundations are contained in the Zionist system itself, which allows Zionists to carry arms and, in fact, encourages them to do so. The system is also lenient with extremist Zionist murderers so long as the murdered person is Palestinian. In the Zionist entity's view, it is allowed to kill Palestinians, and murder is not regarded as a crime which should be tackled so long as the murderer is Zionist and the person murdered is Palestinian. And perhaps the large-scale campaign led by all the Zionist parties and all Israeli political forces in protest at a lenient imprisonment sentence passed against an extremist Zionist rabbi who shot a Palestinian dead is sufficient evidence of the extent of the Israeli system's involvement in these crimes. Its involvement does not stop at being lenient with criminals. In fact, it goes a long way beyond that to the point of inciting crime and enabling the murderer to acquire and use arms and then escape whenever possible!!

This is the truth. The annihilation war against the Palestinians has reached a new high. And the Zionists have started the armed escalation against a peaceful intifadah whose weapon in all cases has not gone beyond a stone or a Molotov cocktail. But the Palestinian people will not voluntarily place their necks under the Zionist knife. And those who started the escalation will really regret the disastrous consequences this could result in.

King Fahd Sends Message to Saddam Husayn

LD2405111890 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1430 GMT 23 May 90

[Text] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, has sent a message to his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, president of the fraternal Republic of Iraq. The message was handed by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, when he was received by the Iraqi president in Baghdad today. The message deals with the close fraternal relations existing between the two sister countries and issues of mutual interest.

His Excellency Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, the Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Saudi Ambassador in Baghdad Atrad al-Harithi attended.

Yemen Arab Republic

Further on Actions Following Unity Declaration

New Cabinet Formed 24 May

JN2405210490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 May 90

["Text" of Presidential Decree No. 1 for 1990, forming the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Yemen, issued in Sanaa on 24 May]

[Text] Chairman of the Presidential Council, taking cognizance of the agreement proclaiming the Republic of Yemen, the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen, and the Presidential Council's Decree No. 1 for 1990 to entrust brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas to form the government, and after the Presidential Council's approval, decrees:

Article 1: the Council of Ministers shall be formed as follows:

Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, prime minster;

Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki, first deputy prime minister;

Brigadier General Mujahid Yahya Abu-Shawarib, deputy prime minister for internal affairs;

Brigadier General Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs; Brother Muhammad Haydara (Masdud), deputy prime minister for developing manpower and adminstrative reform;

Enghineer 'Abdallah Husayn al-Kurshumi, minister of construction;

Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, minister of foreign affairs;

Brigadier General Salih Nasr al-Siyayli, minister of expatriates' affairs;

Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, minister of industry;

Brother Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, minister of petroleum and mineral resources;

Brother Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, minister of supply and trade;

Brother Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah, minister of local administration;

Brother 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud 'Abd-al-Hamid, minister of electricity and water;

Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs;

Brother Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, minister of civil service and administrative reform;

Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for cabinet affairs;

Brother Rashid Muhammad Thabit, minister of state for the House of Representatives affairs;

Dr Faraj Bin-Ghanim, minister of planning and development;

Engineer Ahmad Bin-Muhammad al-Anisi, minister of telecommunications;

Brother Isma'il Ahmad al-Wazir, minister of legal affairs;

Brother Muhsin Muhammad al-'Ulufi, minister of Awqaf and guidance;

Brother Ahmad Muhammad Luqman, minister of securities and social affairs;

Brother Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi, minister of culture;

Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Kabab, minister of youth and sports;

Brother Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Ja'ifi, minister of education;

Brother 'Abd-al-Wasi' Sallam, minister of justice;

Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Jurhum, minister of information;

Brother Salih 'Abdallah Muthanna, minister of transportation;

Brother Salim Muhammad Jubran, minister of fisheries;

Brother 'Abd-al-Qawi Muthanna Hadi, minister of housing and urban planning;

Brother 'Alawi Salih al-Salami, minister of finance;

Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Muqbil, minister of public health;

Brother Sadiq Amin Abu-Ras, minister of agriculture and water resources;

Brother Muhsin al-Hamadani, minister of state;

Brother Mahmud 'Abdallah al-'Arasi, minister of tourism;

Colonel Ghalib Mutahhar al-Qimsh, minister of interior and security;

Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir, minister of defense;

Brother 'Abd-al-Rahman Dhiban, minister of labor and vocational training;

Dr. Ahmad Salim al-Qadi, minister of higher education and scientific research.

Article 2: This decree shall be enforced as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the President's office on 29 Shawwal 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 24 May 1990.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Council of Ministers

House of Representatives Named

JN2505063890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 May 90

[Presidential Council Decree No. 4 of 1990]

[Text] After taking cognizance of the agreement proclaiming the Republic of Yemen and the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen, and following the Presidential Council's approval, the chairman of the Presidential Council decrees:

Article 1. The following brothers shall be appointed members of the House of Representatives:

(Ahmad 'Ubad Sharif); Ahmad 'Ali al-Salami; (Ahmad Ra'if Dir'i) Khalid Abu-Bakr Mi'ras Riyad al-'Atbari;Sultan Ahmad 'Umar; Salih Ahmad Ba-Mahbur; 'Abdallh Mighliq Salih; 'Abdallah Salih Sab'ah; 'Abdallah Nasir Rashid; 'Abd al-Rahman Mahyub; 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba-Jammal; 'Abd-al-Hamid Sayf al-Hadbi;'Abd-al-Hafiz Ta'i; 'Abd-al-Ghani Qasim; 'Abd-al-Qaddus al-Mibraki; 'Abdu Muhammad al-Jundi; ('Ali 'Abd-al-Razzaq Ta'dhi); 'Ali Nasir Turayq; 'Ali Shaykh 'Umar; Faysal 'Abdallah Manna'; Qa'id Salih Husayn; Mujahid Mujahid al-Bahari; Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Husayyin; Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Tayri; Muhammad Muftah 'Abd-al-Rabb; Muhsin 'Ali Salih; (Nasr Nasran Awlillan); Najib Qahtan al-Sha'bi; Shal 'Ali Bin-'Ali; (Yahya Nasr Abu-Usba').

Article 2. This decree shall be enforced as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the President's office in Sanaa on 29 Shawwal 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 24 May 1990.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council

Advisory Council Members Named

JN2505064590 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 May 90

[Presidential Council Decree No. 5 for 1990]

[Text] Taking cognizance of the agreement proclaiming the Republic of Yemen and the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen, and following the Presidential Council's approval, the chairman of the Presidential Council decrees:

Article 1: The Advisory Council shall be restructured as follows: 'Ali Salim al-Bid; Salim Salih Muhammad; Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas; Yasin Sa'id Nu'man; Mahdi 'Abdallah Sa'id; Yahya 'Abdallah al-Qahtani, 'Ali Ahmad al-Salami; Sha'thal 'Umar 'Ali; (Qasim 'Abd-Rabbuh Salih); (Salim 'Umar Bu-Kuhayl) Sa'id 'Askari 'Abdallah; Salih Muhsin al-Haj; Jarallah 'Umar al-Kuhari; Yahya al-Shami; Sayf Qa'im Khalid; Muhammad 'Awad al-Sa'di; Qa'id 'Ali Salah; Sa'd Salih Farah; Sa'id 'Abdallah Ba-Khurays;'Uthman 'Abd-al-Jabbar Rashid;'Abd-al-'Aziz Salih al-Maqalih; 'Ali Bin-'Ali al-Samman; Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab Jubari;'Abd-al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi; 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani; 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar; (Husayn 'Abdallah al-Maqtani); Husayn al-Dab'i; Muhammad Isma'il al-Hajji; Sinan 'Abdallah Abu-Luhum; (Naji 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sha'i'); Yahya Lutfi al-Husayyin; Muhammad Ahmad Mansur; Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Iryani; Yahya Muhammad al-Mutawakkil; Ahmad Muhammad al-Asbahi; Muhammad Ahmad al-Junayd; (Ahmad Jabir 'Ali); 'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim; Ahmad al-Ruhumi; 'Ali Qasim al-Mu'ayyad; Ahmad 'Ali al-Matari; (Muhammad Salim Ba-Shuldwah); 'Abdallah Husayn Barakat; Ahmad 'Ali al-Muhalli. Article 2: This decree shall be enforced as of the date of issuance and shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the President's office on 29 Shawwal 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 24 May 1990.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council

Al-Bashiri Named Army Chief

JN2505075190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Presidential Decree No. 2 of the year 1990 appointing a chief of staff:

Taking cognizance of the announcement proclaiming the Republic of Yemen and the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen; according to a recommendation by the prime minister; and following the agreement of the Presidential Council, the president has decided:

Article 1: Brother Brigadier General 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri is to be appointed chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces.

Article 2: The decision takes effect from the date of its release and is to be published in the government gazette.

Issued at the Presidency on 29 Shawwal 1410 Hejirah, corresponding to 24 May 1990.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council; Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attash, prime minister

Iranians' Message to Hashemi-Rafsanjani Pondered

JN2405215590 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 20 May 90 p 2

["Light" column by Sabri: "A Message"]

[Text] What lies behind the message addressed by 90 prominent Iranian political, religious, and military figures to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani; what are the motives and dimensions of this message; and why does it come now?

The strongly worded message denounces the tyrannical atmosphere prevalent in Iran, calls for restoration of liberties guaranteed by the Constitution, and condemns the regime's foreign policy. As for the originators of this message, most of them occupied official posts in the past, and are still living in Iran.

Obviously, the Iranian situation has not seen any change or political and economic detente even though two years have passed since the cease-fire. This has been tangibly felt by the Iranian figures and has prompted them to address their strongly worded message to the Iranian president, especially now that the Iranian president no longer has the pretext of the war that he had been using before the cease-fire to justify Iran's deteriorating conditions in all areas.

It is also obvious the continuation of the no peace, no war situation has cast its negative shadows on Iran, particularly in the area of investments, and other areas pertaining to economic, livelihood, and internal affairs. This no peace, no war state of affairs is also deepening economic and social problems. A report from the Iranian capital, Tehran, by the Soviet newspaper IZVESTIYA, indicated the repercussions of the Iraqi-Iranian war are having an increasing effect on the economic activities in particular.

In addition, the radical and astonishing changes that overtook the international arena, and the dominance of the policy of detente and relaxation of international relations have surely encouraged the (liberal) Iranian figures to address their message to the Iranian president. For, why should the current of change sweep away most regimes, policies, and concepts, one way or another, and yet leave Iran isolated from it?

In practice, the war has ended. The Iranian regime can no longer justify its deteriorating situation and despotic practices and cover them under the pretext of war. It is now the right of the Iranian peoples to ask for change, relaxation, and improvement of their situation. This is what the Iranian figures are asking through their message.

Arabs Urged To 'Reconsider' U.S. Interests

JN2105145290 Baghdad INA in English 0920 GMT 21 May 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, May 21, INA—AL-QADISIYAH newspaper of Baghdad stressed the Arabs' need for a decisive and serious attitude in the Baghdad Arab summit to enable them face the negative impacts culminating from current international changes. A daily article here today warned against the continuation and repetition of the results of the Malta summit between the Soviet and American presidents and their passive impacts on the Arabs especially what concerns backing the Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine.

The daily stressed that the Arab will should be respected by the international decision making circles if peace and security were to be maintained in the world and the Arab region.

The daily called for putting the Arab-American relations on a new course that takes into consideration pan-Arab interests from the part of the United States if it desires success and development for its relations with the Arabs.

It added that the required American attitude should also take into consideration Arab rights and that the Arabs are today demanded more than at any time before to reconsider the American interests with the Arabs pointing out that the Zionist entity could not serve the American objectives and interests in the region forever.

AL-QADISIYAH added that Arab-American dealing should be based on the mutual respect of the will of the two parties as a means for future relations between the Arabs and America or any other country.

It said that the American policies in the Arab region could not serve the objectives of the American strategy in any form. [passage omitted]

Saddam Receives Saudi Foreign Minister, Message

JN2305111090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 23 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received Saudi Foreign Minister His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal today.

His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal conveyed a written message to the president from his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. The message deals with the firm relations between the two fraternal countries, and the major pan-Arab issues which will be discussed during the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad on 28 May.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and the Saudi ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

More on UN Proposal, Security Council Meeting

Shomron: No 'Suggestions'

TA2405174490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 24 May 90

[Report by military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] Lieutenant General Dan Shomron told staffers in units attached to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman that standing Army personnel have carried out most of the missions in the territories since the killing in Rishon Leziyyon. We do not want to impose further duties on the reservists.

In reply to a question, he confirmed graduates of the latest officers course were deployed in the territories because of the latest events. He believes the fact they are novices will not affect their professional performance.

The chief of staff also pointed out that contrary to reports, 98 percent of the troops report for reserve duty, and there was also high responsiveness to calls for unscheduled exercises.

Later, in a meeting with journalists, the chief of staff addressed the question of stationing UN observers in the territories:

[Begin Shomron recording] In my opinion, this is unnecessary, first of all because we are making all efforts to permit the local population to live in peace, and naturally without suffering casualties. Incidentally, the current situation in the area is that if things remain as they are right now—and I hope they will—one will see that we are in the process of lifting curfews from additional places. This allows the men to go about their business or leave for work, and makes it possible for the schools and the entire educational system to reopen. We are doing everything we can to let them live under the best circumstances possible. I, therefore, see absolutely no need for observers to make any suggestions to us. [end recording]

The IDF has begun to lift curfews. I hope, said the chief of staff, we will not have to maintain such large forces in the area.

[Begin Shomron recording] This will also result in less friction. Additionally, fewer military personnel will be deployed in those places, allowing the locals to lead their lives quietly. I only hope that the public in the territories understands that we will prevent all violent expressions of the intifadah. I know there is a feeling of frustration. I understand that, and we are all aware of it. But if they want to act violently, they will compel the IDF to employ force to abort such phenomena. I hope that this experience, brief as it was, is over. We will let them lead normal lives. [end recording]

As for the use of firearms, Lt. Gen. Shomron says that for now no change has been observed.

[Begin recording] [Shomron] Such things have happened before. This is not the first time such stirrings have been felt. There is no doubt that another element has been added to the prevailing situation, and that is the element of vengeance, which could spur more people to try to act in this fashion. I hope they will not.

[Karmela] Have you not observed some change in this direction over the past few days?

[Shomron] No, I cannot say that a change has occurred now compared to the recent past. [end recording]

Rabin Urges Campaign in U.S.

TA2405180390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Here is another reaction to the idea of positioning UN observers in the territories. Former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin takes a very grave view of the idea. Knesset Member Rabin said Israel must persuade the United States, and apply pressure there to prevent this from occurring.

[Begin Rabin recording] I cannot ignore the gravity of the very proposal to dispatch UN observers to the territories. I believe, or rather I am convinced, that Israel must oppose the idea. It is inconceivable that we, who observe international law and the Fourth Geneva Convention, and who rule in the territories—even if it be by military rule—should accept the supervision of an element which, I hate to admit, has participated in almost no peaceful process. It therefore seems to me that at this stage Israel should intensively employ its best persuasive powers in the United States to prevent the Security Council from adopting such a resolution. [end recording]

Arens Details Opposition

TA2405182990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 May 90

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens says Israel would not accept UN observers in the territories if such a decision is taken by the UN Security Council. At a news conference in Jerusalem today, Arens expressed concern that tomorrow's Security Council debate in Geneva and the Arab summit in Baghdad next week will worsen tensions in the region. Reporter Miriam Hershlag was at the news conference:

[Hershlag] Foreign Minister Arens said both tomorrow's UN Security Council debate in Geneva, and the Arab summit to take place in Baghdad on Monday, were initiated by the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat and both, fears Arens, will contribute to instability in the region. He said the violence which followed the murder in Rishon Leziyyon of the seven Arab laborers was a cynical attempt at using a tragedy to incite more violence. An attempt at tomorrow's Security Council debate to link the murders with Israeli policy certainly can't help maintain tranquillity in the area. Arens was firm in his opposition to the placement of UN observers in the territories, saying:

[Arens] We feel there is no justification for the stationing of UN observers in areas that are legitimately under Israeli control, and came under Israeli control as a result of Arab aggression in 1967.

[Hershlag] But what would Israel do if such a decision was passed?

[Arens] Well, first of all I hope that this is not going to take place, and, no, Israel would not accept UN observers on territory under Israeli control.

[Hershlag] Arens asserted that UN observers would actually increase violence in the territories.

[Arens] I am very seriously concerned that they would not contribute to tranquility in the area at all, and that those people who incite the violence in the area and engage in violence in the area would feel encouraged, not justifiably so, but would feel encouraged to engage in further acts of violence. [passage omitted]

Shamir Opposed to Observers

TA2405192290 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 May 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Yig'al Goren in the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on 24 May—recorded]

[Text] [Goren] What will the State of Israel do if the Security Council decides to dispatch UN observers to the territories?

[Shamir] I do not believe they will decide to do that, because it would be obvious such a resolution would not be implemented, just as many previous anti-Israeli UN resolutions were not implemented. It would be yet another of the anti-Israel UN resolutions. The State of Israel will not be able to accept such a resolution. Therefore, I hope it will not be approved, and that serious elements in the United Nations realize this is not the way to operate if the intention is to reach peace, greater understanding, and greater agreement.

[Goren] Mr. Shamir, in view of the difficult political situation and the latest events in the territories and inside Israel, is this not the time to again set up an emergency unity government?

[Shamir] Look, the situation calls for emergency efforts. I would say that this appears to be an emergency situation, especially if we take into account the demands of the big aliyah and the attitude of the Arabs toward it. A government which has to deal with this situation must in many ways be an emergency government. What happens, however, will depend on the political possibilities.

[Goren] It also depends on you. In view of the situation you can appeal to the Alignment and propose national unity.

[Shamir] I suppose we are all interested in such a government. The question is how does such a government operate as one unit. We have already had national unity. It would be more correct to say we had a unity government, but not national unity.

[Goren] There are those who say there is a very deep crisis of confidence between President Bush and Baker, and you. There are those in the United States who say that U.S. officials no longer trust Yitzhaq Shamir.

[Shamir] That is a great exaggeration because we are not dealing with personal issues, personal likes or dislikes, but the political interests of states. I hope that report is incorrect.

[Goren] No, they say: Yitzhaq Shamir introduced a peace initiative and got us to believe he is serious about it, and then gave it up.

[Shamir] That is not a correct description. I would very much like to explain it again and again. I have explained it in the past and I will continue to explain. I am committed to the peace initiative, the details of which I presented to the U.S. President. I am committed to the main principles of the initiative, but there can be differences on the moves taken within that framework. The U.S. Administration can believe one thing, and we can think slightly differently. Under no condition does that mean the process must stop. I hope we will reach a joint approach.

[Goren] Including talks with the Palestinians?

[Shamir] Certainly. Is a peace process possible without talks between the sides? No, it is inconceivable.

Netanyahu Sent to Geneva

TA2505064090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 May 90

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Uri Paz and Ya'el Dan "just before Netanyahu's departure for Geneva"—live]

[Text] [Paz] Good morning, Mr. Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good morning.

[Paz] Does the decision to send you to Geneva in addition to Ambassador Bein indicate Israel considers today's UN Security Council meeting in Geneva an urgent matter or does it have some broader meaning?

[Netanyahu] It indicates the foreign minister has decided that, in view of the possibility of the Arab countries sending foreign ministers to Geneva and of some 30 people addressing the meeting, it is acceptable for countries to reinforce their delegations in order to present their case more strongly, if I may say so.

[Dan] 'Arafat is scheduled to open the discussion. Where will you be at that time?

[Netanyahu] We have addressed the Security Council on issues related to Israel in the past; we have not abandoned this arena. I personally appeared before Faruq Qaddumi at the Security Council. We will decide on this today when we reach Geneva.

[Paz] This morning we heard about the possibility of sending temporary rather than permanent observers to the area. In essence, is there a difference between the two?

[Netanyahu] There is a certain difference, but let us get back to the main issue. The Arabs are currently pressing for UN observers. As you well know, this is absolutely unacceptable to us.

[Dan] Could Israel agree to temporary observers?

[Netanyahu] Private observers is a totally different issue. I would rather not express our opinion at this time. The Arab proposal, as it currently stands, is to send official UN observers, not private messengers on behalf of the UN secretary general, and this is what we must deal with now.

[Paz] Do you detect any changes in U.S. policy toward Israel? Erosion was mentioned during the last few days.

[Netanyahu] I believe there are ups and downs. There were several misunderstandings. I hope our position on this issue will become absolutely clear. It is no conceptual or academic debate on the Middle East question that they are preparing for us in Geneva today; it is a political ambush aimed at waging a war against Zionism, which includes a war against immigration. It is hard to believe that the United States will lend its hand to this.

[Dan] Do you already know what the U.S. stand will be?

[Netanyahu] We do not yet know the exact formulation of the resolutions, but I hope that the United States will reject this entire move, which is meant to slander Zionism and fight Israel using various means.

[Paz] What will Israel's answer be? Are you bringing the Israeli reply to 'Arafat's speech? Have you already prepared it, or are you waiting to hear his speech?

[Netanyahu] I have several hours on my flight to Geneva; you can guess that I will make use of this time. In any case, we will listen to the statements and make our own without fear. We will say the right things which Israel has to say on such occasions.

[Paz] Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu, thank you and bon voyage.

[Netanyahu] Thank you.

Shamir on UN Force, U.S.

*TA2505074990 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
25 May 90 p A3*

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yosef Harif on 24 May; place not given]

[Text] A UN observer force that would not be stationed in accordance with an agreement signed between two sovereign countries, similar to the accords between Israel and Egypt in the Sinai Peninsula and between Israel and Syria on the Golan Heights, could constitute a destructive element which would work against peace. This opinion was expressed yesterday evening by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in an interview with MA'ARIV. The prime minister added that stationing observers in Judaea and Samaria would only serve as a catalyst for violence and exacerbate the conflict.

Answering a question on the severe erosion in the U.S. position toward Israel that has become apparent recently, Shamir said there is no room to speak in terms of "erosion." Shamir asserted the current tension between Washington and Jerusalem should not be exaggerated. He added he is convinced Israel and the United States can reach an understanding and find a compromise acceptable to both countries—after he forms a government and resumes his meetings with heads of state and the serious and earnest contacts within the context of issues pertaining to the peace process—assuming Washington desires to achieve such agreement. Otherwise, Shamir claimed, the peace process obviously cannot move forward.

Shamir dismissed reports President Bush and Secretary of State Baker have lost their confidence in him, saying such "leaks" cannot be regarded as truth. The prime minister said he is aware of the tendency to use the media in times of crisis to exert psychological pressure on Israeli leaders, but as for himself, he finds it difficult to believe statements such as "Shamir lied to Bush regarding the settlements" reflect the true situation.

"I believe there is more than one way to move toward peace," Shamir said. "One must not get stuck on formulas. Speaking in general, the time has come for the United States to reevaluate the situation in light of the changes that have taken place inside and outside our region. Once the Arab states had to be courted, because they enjoyed the patronage of the Soviet Union. Why must the Arab side continuously be coddled at Israel's expense? What good will come of this? After all, this approach will not further peace. On the contrary, it will merely serve to toughen the Arab stance."

As for the difficulties facing him in forming a government, the prime minister said: "I do not need to go into details, but there a few disagreements. One must understand that when the proposed government rests on a narrow base, every small obstacle blocks the way and can sometimes appear to be an unsurmountable obstacle. At any rate, contrary to what some people say, I have no hidden intention of dragging things out until it becomes clear whether forming a narrow government is indeed the only way to establish a government."

'Test of U.S. Diplomacy' Seen

*TA2405170190 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
24 May 90 p 7*

[Editorial: "Talk About Peace Is Not Enough"]

[Text] Commenting on the events in the occupied Palestinian territories and the massacre perpetrated against Palestinian laborers on Sunday, U.S. President George

Bush said in a statement issued by the White House: "It is not enough to deplore what happened and call for restraint, it is essential to address the political issues that lie at the core of the region's strife, and work for establishing peace."

The publication of this statement coincided with an announcement by the UN secretary general on the convocation of an extraordinary Security Council meeting in Geneva to discuss the situation in the occupied territories.

The transfer of the venue for the Security Council from New York to Geneva came after PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat proclaimed his intention to address the Security Council, thus requiring him to obtain an entry visa to the United States. Since the U.S. Administration refuses to grant such a visa, and in view of the acute and urgent circumstances, the UN secretary general decided to transfer the meeting to Geneva to give 'Arafat the chance to deliver his speech.

No one argues with President Bush when he says the aggravated situation in the occupied territories is due to the absence of a peace process. All countries and political parties, including the Israeli Labor Party, have agreed on this linkage, but we say mere talk about the need to launch a peace process is not enough.

During the last year the U.S. Administration tried to find a vehicle for launching the peace process based on the ideas put forward by Yitzhaq Shamir, prime minister of the caretaker Israeli Government. The administration ignored the Palestinian peace strategy, as well as the Arab and international tendencies in favor of peace. Despite all this, Shamir rejected the very ideas he had put forward.

Does President Bush's call for establishing peace in the region conform with his administration's decision not to grant the PLO Executive Committee chairman an entry visa to the United States? And what does the term "establishing peace" mean to President Bush? Is confronting the region's crises, in accordance with the U.S. Administration's perception, now confined to the call for establishing peace and for restraint, which President Bush has said is not enough?

The Security Council meeting represents a test of U.S. diplomacy. The entire world is waiting to become acquainted with the position of the United States through its delegate at the Security Council. If the United States continues to address the current situation the same way as before, the international community and the Arab leaders, who are expected to attend the Baghdad summit within a few days, will be completely aware of the U.S. position without any need for procrastination or maneuvering.

Should the U.S. Administration desire to work for launching the peace process in the region, the road toward this objective is clear and defined. Its foundation is based on international legitimacy, on which are based the positions of all the world's countries, including those of West Europe. If the Bush administration continues with the wait-and-see policy, the world should point an accusing finger at anyone who places obstacles before the principles of international legitimacy. At any rate, we will not have to wait long to know the reality of the U.S. position regarding the current situation in the occupied territories.

Arens Comments on Status of Ties With U.S.

TA2505045090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] Israel's foreign minister, Moshe Arens, does not believe Israel-U.S. relations are in a period of crisis. At a news conference in Jerusalem yesterday, Arens responded to a question on the deterioration in ties between the two countries.

[Begin Arens recording] I would not refer to the state of relations between Israel and the United States as a state of deterioration. I think in a historical perspective, we know that these relations are very sound, built on a very firm basis of common ideals, common values, and common interests. Relations between even the most friendly of countries, countries that are allies—and Israel is continuously being characterized as an ally by spokesmen of the administration in Washington. [sentence incomplete as heard] Of course, we see in the United States our foremost ally. We have ups and downs. There are disagreements even amongst the closest of partners, and we certainly have some disagreements with the United States at the present time, but in my view I would not characterize the situation as deterioration. The contact between the Israeli Government and the administration in Washington in the last few weeks has not been as close as it has been in the past, because we have been in the process of government formation, and I am sure that once a permanent government takes the place of the present caretaker government, we will resume our very close and intimate contacts with representatives of the administration in Washington. [end recording]

Writer: Media Coverage Affecting Bush Policy

TA2405155690 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 May 90 p 3

["News Analysis" by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer: "Bush: A TV President"]

[Text] In the midst of the constantly deteriorating Israeli- U.S. relations, the Israeli Embassy in Washington was yesterday instructed by the prime minister's bureau and the Foreign Ministry to check the veracity of the report issued by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's bureau in Cairo.

The report contended that in a telephone conversation, President George Bush had promised President Mubarak that the United States would increase the quota of incoming Jewish immigrants from the USSR to reduce the number of immigrants arriving in Israel, which causes concern bordering on panic in the Arab countries.

Until this report was rebutted by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at a news conference at the White House (which was reported to Shamir's bureau in advance), and until the White House denial was received by Israel's ambassador in Washington, Moshe Arad, heavy tension prevailed in the political circles in Jerusalem. "The time has come to get on Bush through the Congress," elements in Shamir's bureau said angrily.

The feeling—as described by senior Likud ministers—was that Bush is conducting a vendetta [preceding word in English] against Israel and its prime minister, without any connection to Israel's policies. The ministers said that although Bush knows that only a tiny percentage of the Soviet immigrants settle in the territories, he persists in threatening and criticizing Israel.

Even disagreement with the political line represented by Shamir can neither explain or rationalize the U.S. President's moves, stressed the Likud ministers.

The Tuesday-night White House statement of condolence to the families of Palestinian casualties of Rishon Leziyyon was interpreted by Jerusalem as another stage in the Bush drive to tighten the rope of U.S. relations with Jerusalem.

It is well known that Bush forms his stands on foreign issues according to his experience and feelings, and does not always rely on documents submitted by his advisers. When asked, in the midst of a crisis with China about a year ago, as to the source of his information on the events there, he replied candidly: "From CNN (a television network that broadcasts news 24 hours a day, which had cameras in Tiananmen Square relaying the bloody drama to the United States until the crew was expelled by the authorities)."

The same is true regarding the territories. It seems that in recent days Bush watched the reports and newscasts broadcast by the media directly from Israel to the United States. The pictures were alarming and the reports spoke of hundreds of Palestinian casualties and of a "bloodbath" perpetrated by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the Gaza Strip.

Bush is a TV president. It is television that raises—or curbs—the threshold of his interest in events. Unfortunately for Israel, the territories are in the news again. Bush watches television—and as a member of the audience, he is affected, deeply affected.

Soviet Delegation Head Criticizes Israeli Policy

TA2505052790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] A Soviet delegation arrived in Israel last night. The group is headed by Mikhail Kapitsa, a member of the Supreme Soviet and the director of the Institute for Eastern Studies in Moscow. Kapitsa was sharply critical of Israel's policies. Upon the delegation's arrival, he said Israel is acting like an elephant in a china shop, as he put it. He said that as a result, the normalization process between Moscow and Jerusalem has been halted.

Herzog on Peace, Intifadah, Political 'Deadlock'

PM2405135390 Helsinki HUFVUDSTADSBLADET in Swedish 22 May 90 p 14

[FINSKA NOTISBYRAN report on interview with President Chaim Herzog; place, place not given]

[Text] Jerusalem—Israeli President Chaim Herzog said it is "rubbish" and "pure lies" that Israel is purposely allowing Soviet Jews to settle in the occupied areas of Gaza and the West Bank.

According to Herzog, behind the allegation are "reactionary circles," who are opposed to any Jews at all moving to Israel and who want to prevent the Soviet Jews from gaining their freedom.

Herzog, who begins a visit to Finland tomorrow, considers that relations between Finland and Israel are very good. But since the Israeli president is mostly a figurehead, Herzog does not expect the visit—his first to Finland—to produce any significant political results.

Herzog said that he believes in peace and in a gradual normalization of relations between Israel and the Arab countries, even though everything is happening slowly by European standards.

The two-year-old Palestinian uprising, the intifadah, is in the process of petering out, the president believes. (He said this before the bloody intermezzo last weekend).

Herzog, who has represented the Labor Party in the Knesset, is worried about the political deadlock in Israel. He considers the small parties to be the scourge of political life and wants to raise the threshold at which a party can win representation in the Knesset and reform the electoral system to be rid of them.

The president was unwilling to give a direct answer to the question of Finland's position as a transit country for Soviet Jews who want to immigrate to Israel.

It is expected that 150,000 to 200,000 Soviet Jews will move to Israel this year. This worries the Arab countries and the PLO.

"For many years the democratic world has been demanding freedom for the Soviet Jews.

"Now the Jews have a chance to become free. It is tragic that certain reactionary circles, who have always been opposed to the Soviet Jews' winning their freedom, are now attempting through pressure on the rest of the world to halt Jewish emigration," the Israeli head of state said.

He recalled how a few years ago Israel airlifted thousands of Ethiopian Jews to the Jewish state. The majority of these have adapted well to Israeli society.

Herzog noted that the Soviet Jews who are now arriving in Israel are highly educated and want to live a life in freedom and peace.

"For a small country like Israel, which is not rich, it is not easy to receive such large numbers of people. But we have done so before. Despite problems we trebled our population. We hope that we now, with the help of the free world, will be able to receive all the Soviet Jews who want to cone to Israel," said Herzog, who welcomes mass immigration.

According to the Israeli president, of the total of between 25,000 and 30,000 Soviet Jews who came to Israel last year as far as is known only 68 settled in Judaea and Samaria (the West Bank) or in Gaza. They chose to go there because they had relatives of friends there

Last year and this year Israel has taken in between 70,000 and 100,000 Soviet Jews. Only 200-210 of these have settled in these areas, Herzog said.

Herzog said that Israel takes a positive view of all attempts to promote peace in the Middle East. But peace cannot be achieved through statements and protests from outsiders. In order to be able to work for peace you have to enjoy the confidence of all the parties involved, the Israeli president said.

Israel and its Arab neighbors play the most important role. Herzog stressed Israel is a democratic country which has the right to make its own final decisions.

Herzog does not think the situation in the Middle East will be a central topic at the summit between Presidents Bush and Gorbachev in a couple of weeks' time. This pleases him.

The president said Israel has a large number of internal problems which must be solved before the big issues are tackled.

The president takes an optimistic view of the future and stressed the importance of negotiations.

There is no longer any talk to the effect that the Jews should be pushed into the sea. The conflicts are now focussing on negotiations: Who should represent whom; what should be discussed, and so on. No one denies negotiations are what is needed.

Herzog said the whole time something is happening beneath the surface. Egyptian ministers are forever visiting Israel and vice versa, without there being any headlines in the newspapers.

But developments cannot be measured in days. In the Middle East the yardstick is different, Herzog stressed. As an example he mentioned the fact it took 30 years for Israel to consolidate peace with Egypt.

At present negotiations are being delayed by the fact Israel finds itself in the middle of a government crisis. The reason for the crisis is the proposal of negotiations in Cairo. The coalition government is deeply divided: The Labor Party wants to compromise while the right-wing Likud is opposed to all contacts with the PLO.

But the people want peace, President Herzog stressed.

The Palestinians are also quarreling and fighting amongst themselves. Within the PLO a struggle between the moderates and the fundamentalists is taking place. On the West Bank and in Gaza the Palestinians disagree about how the intifadah should be pursued further.

People are also tired now, said Herzog, who believes the intifadah is coming to an end.

The president does not have major powers in Israel. His most important political function is to appoint a politician to form a government.

Since Herzog was elected to the presidency for the first time in 1983 the presidency has acquired greater weight because of the many government crises. The attempts to form a workable government founder because of the numerous small parties, which often make unreasonable demands.

Herzog thinks the present electoral system, which dates from the time of British rule, is not suited to a modern state. The system is "overdemocratic:" With a mere one percent support a group can have its representative elected to the Knesset and can then exercise a power that is disproportionate to its support among voters, the president said.

A working group has put forward a proposal for a five percent threshold for representation in the Knesset. The Labor Party supported the proposal, as did Likud, but as a result of the pressure from religious parties the proposal was put on ice.

The long drawn out government crisis has made the people hostile to politicians. Opinion polls show that almost 80 percent of Israelis want reform. Half a million Israelis have signed a petition on the issue. Demonstrations have been arranged repeatedly outside parliament and a group of people demanding reforms have set up camp outside the president's residence.

However, the thrust of the protest is not directed against the president. He is on the side of the demonstrators.

Mordekhay Meets Palestinian 'Officials,' Settlers

TA2505050190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] The head of the Army's Central Command, Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, yesterday held a series of meetings in Judaea and Samaria, including with 24 Palestinians. Among the Palestinian representatives were top officials in education and commerce. Gen. Mordekhay explained to them why the Army imposed curfews after

Sunday's Rishon Leziyyon shooting. They, in turn, called on him to ease the Army measures that make difficult a normal life for Palestinians who live in the areas.

The Central Command commander also met with Jewish residents of Judaea and Samaria and with local Army commanders. He called for restraint.

General Curfew Reimposed on Gaza Strip 25 May

TA2505053490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] This morning the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] reimposed a general curfew on the Gaza Strip. During the past few days the curfews have been lifted for two hours daily to allow local residents to get provisions. No official reason for this curfew was given. Our correspondent Arye Gus, however, reports it was reimposed to prevent clashes during Friday prayers in the mosques.

'Stricter' Firing Regulations in Gaza Strip

TA2405154290 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 May 90 pp A1, 2

[By 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Text] Major General Matan Vilna'i, commander of the Southern Command, has ordered stricter firing regulations in the Gaza Strip in a bid to reduce the large number of casualties in the territories reported since Sunday [20 May]. Maj. Gen. Vilna'i stipulated that now only the most senior commander in each sector will be authorized to allow the firing of plastic or rubber bullets, even in instances of severe rioting. An exception will be made for cases in which the soldiers find themselves in mortal danger.

Army sources stated the new instructions resulted in the absence of casualties in the Gaza Strip yesterday (the nine-year-old boy [age as published] who was killed in Bani-Suhaylah was apparently hit by shots fired by passing policemen.)

Maj. Gen. Vilna'i said yesterday a tendency toward more liberal use of firearms [by Arabs] can be discerned in the Gaza Strip. "Although the leaders forbid the inhabitants to use firearms, the urge for vengeance is strong among the locals," he said.

Two incidents involving firearms were recorded in the Gaza Strip over the past two days: In one an electrical charge exploded near the path of an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit in Ban-Suhaylah, and another Army unit in the al-Nusayrat refugee camp was fired at on Tuesday evening.

In the latter incident, it has been learned nine-mm bullets were directed at a motorized patrol in the camp at around 2015. They were evidently fired from a Carl Gustaf submachine gun. In later searches the soldiers discovered the empty magazines only a few inches from the patrol's route. Maj. Gen. Vilna'i also stated he believes the substantial troop reinforcements in the Gaza Strip will remain for several weeks. He said he was surprised by the strong desire of the local population not to return to a routine.

Further Reaction to Rishon Leziyyon Killings

King Comments on Recent Unrest

JN2405195190 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 24 May 90

[Excerpts] His majesty the king today congratulated the nation on the Kingdom's 44th independence day anniversary, expressing good wishes to the people and pledging to remain steadfast in leading Jordan towards further progress. [passage omitted]

On this occasion, Prime Minister Mudar Badran hosted a reception at the Prime Ministry this evening. His majesty the king attended the reception along with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, members of the Royal Family, speakers of the two Houses of Parliament, chief of the Royal Court, and dignitaries.

After the reception, his majesty the king spoke to reporters about a number of issues.

[Begin recording] [Husayn] As parts of a series of times was to be expected. [sentence as heard] It is, I believe, a cry to the world and its conscience to react, and react swiftly, to the crimes and put an end to them. We deeply regret the few incidents that occurred here in Jordan, but we take them in this context.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, I am sure many commentators around the world are asking whether the unrest in Jordan this week can be healthy for Jordan and toward the stability of Jordan. What is your comment on that?

[Husayn] We certainly hope that whatever happens in Jordan is healthy for Jordan. I believe that people reacted to what was in fact a crime that shook all of us. On the other hand, Jordan today is not what Jordan used to be. And I would like to say here how proud I am of the reaction of the overwhelming majority of Jordanians who came together to control events and contributed toward the restoration of calm and stability in the country in general. This is born of the democracy that we enjoy and of which we are proud, and I believe that the future has great promise of clarity of vision which is not limited to a few, but which is a fact regarding all the people of this country. So, yes we have passed through some difficult and tragic times, but nonetheless I believe that Jordan today is a source of pride, as it has always been, but may be more so than ever before

[Reporter] Your Majesty, do you feel that the Arab world is really understanding the problems of Jordan, especially on the level of the financial and economic problem?

[Husayn] Well, I'd rather not answer that because I have a very clear, strong, precise, concise statement to make at the forthcoming Arab summit. And I hope I will have the privilege of delivering that on the behalf of all Jordanians in the next few days.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, what are you hoping for in the upcoming Arab summit?

[Husayn] I certainly hope that it will be different from previous summits in terms of the results that it could produce at the time of change in the world and in the face of very serious challenges that are before all to witness, that certainly put a heavy responsibility on leaders to come together that our Arab world should show itself in a different way than has been the case in the past to face up to the challenges and to assume the proper position of this nation in the world of today and tomorrow.

[Reporter] What are the basic challenges that you think should be really resolved?

[Husayn] I'd rather not make a statement here and rather make it at the Arab summit.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, is there any sign or any talk of certain groups taking advantage of the marches that took place in support of the West Bank and of transforming to something else? [as heard]

[Husayn] I believe that the clarity of vision of all Jordanians will not permit that and there may have been, in some cases, some elements that might have been responsible for the incidents that occurred contrary to what was in the hearts, souls, and minds of all Jordanians or people on this land and what they wished to express, but certainly the confidence I have in the overwhelming majority of our people, in all our people, I believe, is not merely a wish but is a fact.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, there has been some criticism of the security forces for using too much force, comparisons made for example with the situation on the other side of the river. People saying that in the end the picture didn't move [as heard] very different. Do you believe that this is fair comparison?

[Husayn] I believe that this is what they would wish to try to portray on the other side, but it certainly is not the case. And I believe that the security forces and the people as a whole acted with great restraint in the face of what, to all Arabs, was a terrible provocation and a terrible fact.

Thank you, sir, very, very much indeed. Thank you. [end recording]

People Left 'Angry, Frustrated'

JN2405090990 Amman THE STAR in English 24-30 May 1990 p 4

[Article: "Jordan's Days of Rage"]

[Text] Al-Baq'ah—The demonstrations appear to have ceased after a long day of disturbances. No riot police forces are to be seen in or around al-Baq'ah refugee camp on this Wednesday noon. But business still seemed far from usual.

The camp's marketplace was open but not much selling was going on in the shops on whose roofs black flags were still fluttering mourning the dead of last Sunday's brutal killing of Palestinian workers in Israel.

The tens of young people who gathered in small groups in the main street of the market were engaged in debates over the demonstrations that erupted in the camp during the last few days and the clashes that ensued with the security forces.

"The situation is calm now, but people are angry, extremely angry and frustrated," says a young resident of the camp.

But this anger is not directed at Jordan, says another young man who seems to be a leading figure at the camp's youth club. He says that national unity between Jordanians and Palestinians were among the major things "that we called for during the demonstrations."

The people's fury is against Israel, the United States, and Egypt, he says.

"While Israel commits daily atrocities against Palestinians, the Israeli ambassador is still in Egypt and America continues [to] support Israeli policies."

In al-Baq'ah camp, whose population numbers 75,000, "Americans are in danger and the people demand that the American ambassador leaves Jordan," says a young man who seems to enjoy enormous respect from the group of young Palestinians who gathered around this reporter at the poorly-furnished Youth Club in the middle of the camp.

Most importantly—says the young Palestinian who did not give out his name but shall be referred to in this article as Ahmad—people are enraged by the official Arab stand on the Palestinian problem, and the situation in the camps will depend on the outcome of the Arab summit which is expected to be held in Bahgdad by the end of the month.

Ahmad says that all the political parties in the camp have decided to await the decisions of the Arab summit before organising any new demostrations. "If the Arab leaders do not decide to take firm stands against the Israelis and do not prepare for a possible confrontation with them then more demonstrations will take place," he says.

Many young Palestinian refugees who spoke to this reporter said that their main demand during the demonstrations was to "open the frontiers for military action against Israel." They criticised the Arab governments and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for pursuing the path of peace that Israel flatly rejects..

The Youth Club is the only public place in which the young men of the camp meet. According to Ahmad a generation of militant young Palestinians, who completely reject the Arab policies towards the Palestinian problem, is emerging independently of traditional leaderships.

These groups organised their own demonstration in the camp on Monday and it was with them that the security forces first clashed.

"We never intended to clash with the police and everybody is against confrontation with the security forces," says Ahmad. But, he charges that the security forces overreacted and provoked the demonstrators.

He says that the demonstrations which started on Monday morning and afternoon—the first organised by the leftists and the second by the Islamists—were highly organised and did not give the security forces any reason to interfere. But when a third demonstration tried to walk to Amman to attend a rally that was organised at the Professional Unions Association in al-Shumaysani, riot police interfered and stopped the march at Safut, five kilometres north of Swaylih.

Later, claims the young leader, the riot police and the Badiah [riot police] units forced their way into the camp, using live ammunition and tear gas to disperse the crowds. Ahmad claims that two residents of the camp, Yusuf Yaghi and Musa al-Digis, were killed during the clashes and more than 60 others were wounded.

Official government statements have said that al-Baq'ah demonstrators fired at the police and attacked a police station in the camp. It also said that the crowds threw stones at the police who did not interfere until the situation got out of control.

Residents of the camp say they did not attack the police station nor did they use guns against the police.

Ahmad says the situation calmed down when a parliamentary delegation headed by Speaker of the Lower House Mr Sulayman 'Arar visited the camp and met with its residents.

He said the residents demanded that the government compensate them for their damaged properties, escpecially houses and cars which were destroyed by the armoured vehicles, they also called for the immediate release of those who were detained during the protests. The residents also requested the delegation, which included deputies Layth Shubaylat, Mansur Sayf-al-Din Murad, Muhammad Abu-Faris, 'Abdallah al-Nusur, Hammam Sa'id, Fawzi al-Tu'aymah and others, to guarantee that the government will not make any more arrests.

"We also expressed our wish that the borders of all confrontation states be opened for military action especially that the status quo cannot last for long," says Ahmad.

"For three years the Intifada has been raging in the occupied territories and we have done nothing to help it. We cannot keep on watching them (the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza) getting killed and do nothing about it," says one of the camp's residents.

'Scattered' Protests; 2 Killed

JN2405110490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24-25 May 90 pp 1,5

[By staff writer P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Scattered anti-Israeli demonstrations were reported in refugee camps in and near Amman Wednesday [23 May], but calm generally took hold in most troublespots where protests sparked by Israeli actions in the occupied territories had led to violent clashes with security police Monday and Tuesday.

Parliament members, leftist groups, the Muslim Brotherhood party, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and other popular organisations added to earlier appeals for calm and peaceful demonstrations issued by the government and the legislative body.

In most camps in and around the capital as well as other parts of the Kingdom, security forces "did not have to intervene to disperse the marchers Wednesday since almost all of them were peaceful and none of the protesters resorted to violence," a senior police source told the Jordan Times. However, violent clashes were later reported from the Hittin camp, about 20 kilometres northeast of Amman, where demonstrators attacked public buildings. A reporter from the scene said at least two people were killed in Wednesday, raising the toll in the camp to three since Monday [21 May]. Only one of Wednesday's deaths was officially confirmed by police. Another fatality, occurred Tuesday [22 May], was caused by "gunfire from a weapon not used by police," an official statement said.

Calm was restored to the camp late Wednesday after intervention by at least five Parliament members—Layth Shubaylat, Bassam Haddadin, Muhammad al-Haj, Dhib Anis and Ziyad Mahfuz, the reporter telephoned from Hittin. The deputies as well as leaders of the camp appealed to residents to remain calm and refrain from resorting to violence, he said.

The police source in Amman confirmed that arrests were made of several people who had attacked and damaged public property, including cars, in various areas but all had been released by Wednesday afternoon. The source refused to comment on reports that "several organised groups" were behind the violent flare-ups Monday and Tuesday.

Small groups of demonstrators, mostly schoolchildren and young boys and girls, staged protest rallies in several camps bedecked with black flags mourning for Palestinians killed in the occupied territories, and a group of about 200 protesters were dispersed at the Ministry of Interior Circle Wednesday noon.

In al-Baqa'h camp, half a dozen marches, each involving less than 50 to 60 children, were staged, but there was no repetition of the violence which wracked the shantytown of 80,000 residents in the last two days. Alert riot police kept vigil at the main entrance to the camp but did not intervene in any of Wednesday's rallies, witnesses reported. Al-Balqa' Governor Falih al-Gharayibah visited the camp and reviewed the situation, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Protest rallies held by students in Amman's al-Husayn and al-Wahdat camps proceeded peacefully. Shortly after the protest march was dispersed at the Ministry of Interior Circle, a large group of mostly women and schoolgirls in uniforms staged shouting anti-Israeli slogans and carrying Jordanian and Palestinian flags as well as black flags.

A women fully clad in black cloth and a veil led the march with chants of "Allahu Akbar" [God is great] and "With our blood and soul we redeem our martyrs." Children ranging from five to 15 took part in the rally, which dispersed peacefully after about one hour.

In Irbid, where a 14-year-old boy was killed in clashes Tuesday, normalcy was reported after the boy's family buried him in the same grave as his grandfather in the early hours of Wednesday.

Schools and universities in the northern town resumed normal activities and most students were back in their classes, witnesses said.

Police were on full alert at al-Rusayfah, where a group said to number several hundred staged a demonstration Tuesday night and went on a rampage and attacked at least three resturants and burned down one of them after "taking away its stock of alcohol," sources said. But no violent incidents were reported Wednesday.

In the city of al-Zarqa', several peaceful demonstrations were staged Wednesday with no intervention from security forces. However, two breweries situated near the entrance of the city of 450,000 residents were attacked by demonstrators Tuesday night, according to official and other sources. One of the breweries was slightly damaged but the other sustained greater damage to its facilities. Al-Zarqa' Deputy Bassam Haddadin told the Jordan Times that a man, Muhammad Gazzawi, was killed when riot police opened fire to disperse the crowd.

The Petra news agency and Jordan Television carried statements issued by several members of the Lower House of Parliament, including Tahir al-Masri, Shaykh Abu-Zant, Jamal al-Sarayirah, 'Abdallah Zurayqat, Salim al-Zu'bi, 'Atif al-Butush, and Fu'ad al-Khalafat. The central theme of the statements was an emphasis on the need to preserve national unity and appeals to the public against indulging in any activity which will shift the focus of attention away from Israeli practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied lands. The deputies also noted that any such diversion ahead of the May 28 Arab summit to be held in Baghdad will only serve the interests of the enemy.

The parliament members called on the public to return to work and respect law and order and underlined the necessity to avoid breaching guidelines set by the security forces. They also warned that the freedoms gained in Jordan's democratisation process should not be misused.

The PLO also appealed to the people to maintain unity and cohesion for "the sake of supporting the Intifada and foiling Israel's plots."

Petra quoted PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's advisor Bassam Abu-Sharif as saying that "Jordanian-Palestinian ties are deeply rooted and the two peoples have common objectives and interests and seek the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil."

"Both peoples should extend whatever support they can for the Palestinian people under occupation who will continue their uprising despite Israel's atrocities and slaughter of innocent people," Abu-Sharif was quoted as saying by Petra. "Both peoples should foil Israel's aim of diverting world attention from the developments inside the occupied territories," Abu-Sharif said.

Calm Restored to Refugee Camps

JN2405141190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 May 90

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Life returned to normal in all [Palestinian refugee] camps in Jordan after three days of demonstrations and marches, some of which led to clashes that resulted, according to official statistics, in three dead and 29 injured, including a number of security men. At dawn today, security forces withdrew from the outskirts of the Hittin camp, which, until last night, had been the scene of angry demonstrations during which firearms were used. A Jordanian parliamentary delegation met with approximately 4,000 persons at two mosques in the Hittin camp and the adjacent Prince Faysal district. Following that meeting, an agreement was reached for calm to return to the area and for the security forces to withdraw from the outskirts of the camp. The delegation, which also visited the homes of the two persons killed in the demonstrations, stressed that citizens should be aware of the plots against the country and that the people must not be a party to those plots.

In al-Wahdat camp, at the southern entrance of the capital, 10 committees made up of citizens from the camp were formed to help calm the situation. Members of these committees were sent to the entrances of the camp. The committees were formed today following a meeting at the al-Wahdat club attended by Palestinian Ambassador al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Jordanian deputies, security men, and camp figures. The conferees affirmed the need to restore calm in the Kingdom so that attention would not be diverted from the Israeli repression and practices against Palestinians in the occupied territories.

In addition, marches were staged in al-Rusayfah and 'Awajan areas to voice support for King Husayn, denounce the disturbances, and celebrate Jordan's 44th independence anniversary.

Paper Regrets 'Transgressions'

JN2305183890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 May 90 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "Our Trench is One"]

[Text] Because we love Palestine just as we love Jordan, and because we passionately love every Palestinian particle of dust just as we passionately love every Jordanian particle of dust, we were shocked by Sunday's [20 May] massacre, which aroused our sorrow and anger just as it aroused these passions in the hearts of our kinfolk in Palestine. We saw the massacre just as they saw it: As a true expression of Zionist malice and a brutal exercise of racism, which began with the Dayr Yasin [massacre] before it and which will not end with Sunday's massacre, or even after it.

It was our right and duty to express our deep sorrow and great fury in the Jordanian Arab arena. This Palestinian blood west of the river is bleeding from our bodies and this Palestinian wound, which resists the enemy's rifles and bayonets, is also our wound. We did this in the Jordanian Arab arena like no one else and we voiced our sorrow, anger, and condemnation like no one else. We did this simply because we are here in Jordan and Palestine, which together form a steadfast body that has resisted every attempt to strike at it, which has put up a confrontation that has foiled every plan to contain it, and whose people insist on regaining our rights, have done so since the establishment of the Zionist entity, and will continue to do so until that entity is no more.

No Zionist bayonet can pierce a Palestinian body without taking with it some flesh from the Jordanian body, and there is no wound in Palestine that does not bleed here in Jordan. When the brave Palestinian popular intifadah erupted, our joint enemy faced the reality that Jordan is the Achilles' heel of the intifadah, which will die if Jordan is weak, overwhelmed by its financial and economic crisis, and fails to remain, as it has always been, a bridge for the Arab nation to its Palestinian people of support, steadfastness, and firmness.

Therefore, we view some recent transgressions, as we voice our sorrow and anger, as painful to us here and to the brothers who are continuing and escalating their intifadah through martyrdom and blood. These transgressions hurt us because they should not have been linked to our sorrow and anger, which have been deepened by Sunday's massacre. Our joint security here and in the Palestinian arena is a guarantee of our patience and steadfastness in the trench of the great homeland and on the principal defense line of our glorious nation.

Now we need, more than ever, every drop of blood; we need all our pain and anger to be directed at our joint enemy; and we need to protect our trench, which constitutes a strong barrier, wall, and defence against threats to Palestine, against expansionist plans, and against the decisions of the enemy. This enemy knows very well that a steadfast Jordan will guarantee the continuation of the intifadah and the achievement of its goals, and will also turn Palestine's land into a hell, whose fuel will be the invaders, and the Palestinian state will be born.

We have expressed our sorrow and our anger, and we have to be very careful about what our enemy believes it can achieve. As we have always deprived our enemy of its opportunities, we are confident that we can do so again today and tomorrow. The measure of our love for Palestine is our love for Jordan, and our love for every particle of dust is like our love for every Jordanian and Arab particle of soil.

'Factors' Blamed for Violence

JN2405131690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 May 90 pp 1,5

[By Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—A combination of factors, prominent among them frustration over Arab inaction towards the Palestinian intifada and misguided views as well as extremist tendencies and external influence, was blamed by several members of Parliament Wednesday [23 May] for the two days of violence which hit refugee camps and other areas in Jordan Monday and Tuesday.

Interviewed by the Jordan Times, deputies expressed the opinion that most of those who took part in violent protests did not belong to any organised group. "They are very young but they come in big numbers," said one deputy who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. He attributed several factors for the unrest, including "the intifada and the inaction of Arabs, internal problems such as economic hardship and unemployment; and influence from outside forces which stand to gain from creating instability in the Kingdom."

Half of the people resorting to violence are religious zealots and others are misguided," he said. "The violent events started as peaceful demonstrations and ended up into something completely different."

"There are also certain elements who would benefit from problems in this country," according to the deputy. "Some people from the different areas where the riots broke out told me that there were small organised groups. For example in al-Rusayfah, they hit all restaurants except one called Syria. They hit everything connected to alcohol... this is the Islamic element."

In Hittin camp outside Amman, the parliamentarian said, "We tried to talk to the youth but they wouldn't listen to us. They kept telling us to go to the mosques. The religious element is there even if it is not organised."

In addition, there is also the "the class element," said the deputy, noting that "the protesters hit banks in al-Rusayfah, reflecting an anti-establishment spirit."

Furthermore, he added, "people get excited when they see a police car even if the security forces are not doing anything. Also, there are other aspects. For instance, the boy who died at Hittin was killed by gunfire from a demonstrator; there were no security forces around at that time."

The deputy said he supported the government's position that the security forces would use force to disperse rallies when the marchers go beyond peaceful expressions and step beyond the designated area. "The government has a responsibility to maintain calm and order," he pointed out.

"We need a little toughness and firmness in dealing with these demonstrations because they are expanding and are becoming destructive," he added.

Al-Zarqa' deputy Haddadin said that "We have to understand that large sectors of society participated in these demonstrations to show their condemnation and anger over what is taking place in the Israeli-occupied territories."

"It is like a ball that keeps rolling in the snow," he said. "Large numbers of youth have the enthusiasm of the young blood. This is a generation that is living its problems. The country suffers from unemployment... the democratic experience is limited and these people show their anger as they see on TV by breaking and throwing stones."

"The attacks on places serving alcohol and the breweries indicate that people have been filled with an ideology which throws all problems onto whiskey bottles and male hairdressers," he said.

"Most people are against the violence taking place in the country," he noted and expressed hope that "the development of democracy in the country will help us overcome these problems."

Several other deputies voiced the same sentiments and emphasised the need to preserve national unity.

Al-Qasim, PLO Officials Discuss 'Coordination'

JN2005094790 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 May 90 pp 1, 18

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, yesterday met with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member; and al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the ambassador of the state of Palestine in Amman. They discussed the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination during the upcoming Baghdad Arab summit, which will be 28 May.

The two Palestinian officials briefed al-Qasim on the Palestinian viewpoints on the Arab summit in terms of issues related to the Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine from the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and Ethiopia and the effects of this emigration on pan-Arab security.

They also discussed the water problems in the region, the current crisis in Lebanon, and the repercussions of the international developments on the Arab nation—issues which will be presented at the Arab summit. It was emphasized that all the Arab states should attend the summit, given the fact that is the most important and significant summit at this extremely serious and critical phase.

They also affirmed the need for Arab support for fraternal Iraq in facing the Israeli, U.S., and Western threats in view of Iraq's position as a strategic asset for the Arab nation. They called for more efforts to realize Arab consensus by having all the Arab leaders attend the summit on whose success many issues are hinged and which constitutes a turning point in the life of the Arab nation, facing as it does, the most serious onslaught on pan-Arab security.

On another level, AL-DUSTUR has learned more Arab efforts will be exerted over the next few days to convince Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad of the need to attend the summit for Syria to play its required role in Arab consensus and face the threats and challenges against the Arab nation.

Badran Statement on Jewish Emigration Noted

JN1805204590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 May 90

[Text] Because the immigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territories is related to pan-Arab security as a whole, Prime Minister Mudar Badran has stated the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad on 28 May will devise an Arab strategy to face the danger of this immigration.

In a statement to London Radio, which was broadcast this evening on the "Panorama" program, Badran stated that in the next Arab summit, a suitable Arab plan will be drawn up to protect our existence as Arabs in the face of conspiracies aimed at uprooting and terminating us, and the conspiracy to cancel the Arab entity and identity, and the future of coming generations.

Badran said Jordan has expressed to the Soviet Union its concern over the Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied territories. He added the Soviet ambassador in Amman was summoned for this purpose, and as a result of the Jordanian efforts, the Soviet Union expressed its understanding of this concern and decided to halt direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv to transport Soviet immigrants. Moreover, the Soviets have denounced Israel's policy, which continues to settle Jewish immigrants in the West Bank and Jerusalem in particular.

Following this, Badran said the Soviet Union has allowed the Soviet Jews to retain the passports which enable them to return to the Soviet Union, rather than the one-way travel document.

On the U.S. position regarding this issue, the prime minister said that while declaring its opposition to settling Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories, the United States has announced urgent additional aid to Israel to settle those immigrants.

The prime minister added the most pressing danger posed by the Jewish immigration to the occupied territories lies in expelling Arab citizens who own the land, replacing them with Jewish immigrants, expanding the settlements, and realizing Israel's ambitions in what it calls Greater Israel by occupying new Arab lands.

The prime minister asserted this means an outbreak of new wars created by Israel, which claims it wants peace.

The prime minister affirmed Jordan's stand on facing the Zionist danger since the start of the Palestine issue and its daily experience with this issue and its social, economic, and political consequences—in addition to what Jordan has endured over the past five decades—has made Jordan more aware of the continuity and seriousness of the Israeli threat. Jordan is also the one who will suffer most from any results or repercussions of that threat. This danger is not confined to Jordan alone, but encompasses the entire Arab nation.

Concluding his statement, the prime minister emphasized Jordan's stand calling for establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. He said Israel is still rejecting peace. The ball has for a long time been in the other side's court—and it seems it will remain there for some time.

Paper Calls Israeli Statement 'Big Trick'

JN2005083690 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 May 90 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "A Strong Warning to the Arabs"]

[Text] The Arabs should be cautious and careful regarding the statement made yesterday by the Israeli prime minister's media spokesman in which he denied that Israel's policy is based on directing a preemptive strike, or committing any acts of aggression, against any of the Arab states. Israel had earlier informed Egypt of the content of this statement following the assertions of the Iraqi deputy prime minister, who explained that Iraq has confirmed information on Israeli preparations to strike at Iraq. The Iraqi official also reaffirmed Iraq will answer comprehensively to any Israeli aggression to which Iraq might be subjected.

The Israeli statement can mean one of two things: It might be a sedative to soak up the state of Arab awareness; and in this case, this forecasts that Israel is near to committing an aggressive adventure. This situation is similar to what happened prior to the Israeli aggression on 5 June 1967, when Israel had asserted that it would not strike first. The second possibility is that Israel has seriously considered the Iraqi warning and that it wants to ease for some time the tension it has caused, to be able to deal with the causes that led to accelerating Arab cohesion and opening horizons to convening an Iraqi-Iranian summit that might result in building an Islamic-Arab strategy which can cause a turnabout in the balance of power in the region.

Obviously, these two possibilities do not exclude Israeli aggressive intentions. These intentions have been repeatedly declared by Israeli officials, primarily, about the Greater Israel project to which they have persistently renewed their commitment and for which they are gathering emigrant Jews whom they are bringing to Palestine. Likewise, these intentions were also coupled with practice when Israel attacked the Iraqi nuclear reactor, and are still being practiced in southern Lebanon and the occupied territories.

The upshot of all this is that the Israeli statement is no more than a big trick. Therefore, duty calls for more Arab caution, further encouragement of Iraqi-Iranian closeness, working seriously to build an Islamic Arab strategy, and a change in the balance of power in the region.

Israel has one way to prove its acceptance of the peace option; that is, recognition of the Palestinian people's right to regain their usurped land and establish their state on their national soil. Israel should also accept the convening of an international conference as soon as possible to move ahead and implement the steps needed for withdrawal from the occupied territories. Otherwise, Israeli sedative, deceptive statements cannot be considered seriously.

Since Israel is working in the opposite direction of the above mentioned route it should follow, we strongly warn against the Israeli statement and against any attempts that might be undertaken by the United States to tranquilize the Arabs on the basis of that statement or any illusory U.S. promises. We also strongly call for the participation of all the Arab leaderships in the anticipated Baghdad summit because the apparent signs—including the possibility contained in the Israeli statement—mandate quick pan-Arab coalescence, extreme caution, and serious preparedness to face dangers.

'Insolent' U.S. Decision on Settlements Condemned

JN2005144890 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 May 90 Second Edition pp 1, 15

["Flash" column by chief editor: "The Arab Summit and the U.S. Stand"]

[Text] It is the United States and nothing else which is behind all the causes and motives of the Jewish immigration to Israel. This is confirmed at both the strategic and tactical levels.

The successive U.S. administrations, the Reagan administration in particular, and then the Bush administration have enabled Israel to realize its plans to allow Soviet Jews, the Jews of the Ethiopian Falashas, and other Jews to immigrate to Israel.

The Reagan administration financed the building of settlements; the Bush administration continued this financing process, and, in addition, financed the emigration of the Soviet Jews by making available to them material and moral support.

The recent deal, moreover, was directly concluded between the current U.S. Administration and the Ethiopian Government in the form of trade: Ethiopia is to allow the immigration of 3,000 Jews to Israel, and in return, the United States will allow the opening of an Ethiopian embassy in Washington and will also provide foodstuffs via Mits'iwa Port.

The United States has added $2 million to the $400 million allocated to finance settlement activity as a compensation for what the Israeli Construction and Housing Ministry paid to settlers in St. John Orthodox Church.

After all this, the U.S. Administration—through its State Department—comes up with a very insolent decision which flagrantly ignores Arab rights. This is the new U.S. decision that responds to the Arabs and refuses to recognize settlements as illegitimate.

The recent U.S. decision is the most insolent among the bad U.S decisions, because it reneges on what has been said earlier by the U.S. administrations, whether during President Carter's term of office or in the beginning of President Bush's term.

U.S. positions calling for the emigration of the Soviet Jews and recognizing the legitimacy of settlements in the occupied Arab territories have left no more cover for U.S. policy, which now manifests outright bias and commitment toward the Israeli camp. In fact, the U.S. stand sometimes turns more extreme, aggressive, and blind to Arab and Palestinian national rights than the Israeli stand.

The grave state which the mocking U.S. stance toward Arab issues has reached should be answered accordingly. This response, however, cannot be a balanced and effectual one unless it is adopted by the next Arab summit in Baghdad, and unless there are means which render it capable of putting an end to U.S. arrogance and Israeli aggressiveness. Thus, this response can make available a chance for a just, lasting peace, which is still being mortgaged by the United States for the sake of Israel.

Al-Baz Briefs King on Mubarak's Foreign Tour

JN2305215490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 May 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at al-Nadwah Palace this afternoon Dr. Usamah al-Baza, first under secretary of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and the head of the presidential office for political affairs, in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan. Dr. al-Baz briefed his majesty on the results of his brother President Husni Mubarak's recent tour of the USSR, the PRC, and the United Kingdom.

The meeting was also attended by the prime minister, his excellency the chief of the Royal Court, His Majesty King Husayn's political adviser, and the Egyptian ambassador in Amman. All had lunch with his majesty the king.

Anti-Drug Forces Seize Hashish, Make Arrests

JN2005135390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 May 90 p 3

[By P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Air-borne forces and speedboats seized 690 kilogrammes of hashish with a street value of JD 700,000 [Jordanian dinars] and arrested an undisclosed number of Jordanians as well as other Arab nationals in two separate operations Friday.

According to anti-narcotics bureau chief Brigadier-General Ghalib al-Zu'bi, the first operation was carried out in the waters of the Gulf of Aqaba where anti-drug forces laid a trap early Friday following a tip-off that an Egyptian boat was expected to pick up a large consignment of hashish. "The boat did not turn up at the rendezvous, and anti-narcotics forces moved in and seized the drug haul and arrested several people," al-Zu'bi told reporters Saturday.

The quantity seized in the Aqaba operation was 350 kilogrammes of hashish, he said. He declined to give the number of people arrested, obviously since more suspects were at large.

"The second operation, which took place in the northeast of the country near the border with Syria, involved a full mobilisation of all branches of security forces, including the badia [desert] police and border patrols, after information was received that a major drug shipment was on its way to Jordan en route to another country," al-Zu'bi said.

Four pick up trucks carrying a total of 340 kilogrammes of hashish of Lebanese origin were seized, and at least 10 people were arrested in a three-hour operation, including a one-hour helicopter chase across the desert and shootout with the smugglers, according to al- Zu'bi. "We believe that many others involved in the case are at large," he said without giving details. "Investigations are continuing."

The head of the anti-narcotics department in the north, Major Muhammad Falah al-'Uthayn, who was directing the operation from the helicopter was shot and wounded by the smugglers. "The wound was not serious and the 36-year-old officer was back on his feet," al-Zu'bi said. "Another officer was slightly injured by flying glass, but none of the suspected smugglers were injured in the clashes," he added.

Detailing the operation, al-Zu'bi said security forces initially intercepted three pick-up trucks carrying 120 kilogrammes of hashish at difference [word as published] points in the northeast, but the fourth defied police orders and sped off into the desert. A wide dragnet was drawn in the area, and a police helicopter was called in. "The chase was on in full force after the helicopter spotted a vehicle racing across the desert at a crazy speed," he said. "The description of the vehicle matched that of the fugitive pick-up, and the helicopter approached the vehicle and ordered it to stop. There was no compliance with the order, and instead the smugglers opened fire on one of our cars closing in on them."

"The helicopter followed the smugglers' vehicle across the desert while all possible exit points were sealed off," he said. "The shootings and the chase continued onto the main highway, and the smugglers were forced to a stop by a makeshift roadblock by a police car. The helicopter also landed on the main road and the smugglers were immediately arrested and the vehicle, which carried a Saudi licence plate and driven by a Saudi national, was found to contain 220 kilogrammes of hashish. [quotation mark as published]

Displayed in front of the anti-narcotics bureau at al-'Abdali were the four seized pick-up trucks. One of them bore heavy bullet marks and its windshields were shattered. The seized drugs, packed in cellophane and jute wrappings of about one kilogramme each, worth about JD 500 in "wholesale" and JD 1,000 "on the street," were also displayed.

Also on display were at least one Kalashnikov machine-gun, five old-fashioned bolt-action rifles, ammunition belts and a heap of loose shining copper-plated bullets as well as several revolvers and an assortment of knives and blunt instruments used in close fighting. Officials said the arms and ammunition were seized from the smugglers. Two of the vehicles carried Saudi licence plates.

It was the third reported seizure of drugs in Jordan in 1990 where the smugglers used firearms against anti-narcotic forces. In one incident, an officer was shot and killed, according to the Public Security Department (PSD). Informed soruces said almost four tonnes of hashish alone were seized since the beginning of the year in a series of operations.

Jordan is seen as a major transit point for drugs from Lebanon as well as Turkey passing through Syria, headed for Saudi Arabia and Egypt, accoding to U.N. experts. The local authorities say that while Jordan does not have major drug abuse problem, drug enforcement authorities have a major task trying to block the Kingdom's territory being used as a smuggling route, mostly for hashish originating in Lebanon.

Al-Zu'bi said that the consignment seized Friday in the northeast was "destined for a neighbouring Arab country." He did not give the name of the country, but it was believed that it was Saudi Arabia.

According to earlier reports, more than 150 people of Jordanian as well as other nationalities, have been arrested in a span of eight months in what the police authorities describe as a stepped-up anti-narcotics campaign in Jordan. Many of the arrested have already been tried and convicted while others are awaiting trial.

Border Police Make Hashish Haul on Syrian Border

*JN2305215790 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
23 May 90 p 1*

[Text] Amman—A quantity of hashish packaged in about 1,187 blocks has been found by the security services and handed over to the Directorate for Combating Drugs and Forgery.

The details can be summed up as folows: Desert and border police were patroling the Jordanian-Syrian border east of Tall al-Musamma [name as published] when they clashed with a group of smugglers. The area was then searched and a quantity of hashish was found.

Ministry Rescinds Ban on Male Hairdressers

JN1905071590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 May 90 p 1

[By Ghadir Tahir]

[Text] Amman-The Ministry of Interior has rescinded a decision taken last month to ban male hairdressers from working in beauty salons for women, ending a four-week controversy over the legality of the move.

Hairdressers Association President Anis al-Nabir told the Jordan Times Friday [18 May] that ministry officials told the association "during a meeting that the ban has been withdrawn and everything is back to normal." He said the executive members of the association were informed of the rescindment Wednesday [16 May].

Although Ministry of Interior officials refused to make any formal comment, one ministry official privately confirmed that the ban was no longer effective and the decision was withdrawn.

Minister of Interior Salim Masa'idah said last week that the ban was a compromise aimed at appeasing more "conservative" elements in society. He said the ban would only apply to men trying to get licenses to open new beauty salons. The minister could not be reached for comment Friday.

Al-Nabir said that the ministry has assured the association that anyone male or famale, could get a new license for a beauty salon "just like before."

A senior official, commenting on the decision, said he did not expect the ministry to make a formal announcement of the withdrawal of the ban "in order not to make a big issue out of the move."

The ban, seen as a result of pressure by Islamists, sparked a controversy in more moderate circles which prompted some groups, including women activists, to lobby against the move, describing it as a violation of constitutional provisions which stipulate equal rights for men and women in the Kingdom. Spokesmen for the Muslim Brotherhood, which has a strong presence in Parliament with the largest single bloc in the Lower House, welcomed the ban saying it would boost employment chances for women.

Several groups were involved in behind-the-scene lobying with the government to bring about a reversal of the decision. However, a 1980 Supreme Court decision against a similar decision adopted by the authorities in Irbid appeared to have been the dominant influential factor in the ministry's move to withdraw the decision.

Israeli Forces Detain Suspects in Robinson Murder

NC1805183390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 18 May 90

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces have raided Rashayya al-Fukhkhar and Shab'a in the south. They detained four people on charges of collaboration with the Lebanese national resistance and took them to the al-Khiyam prison.

[Paris AFP in English at 1029 GMT on 18 May in a Tyre-datelined report adds: "Israel's proxy militia in southern Lebanon has arrested five Lebanese men in connection with the assassination in March of American missionary William Robinson, regional security sources said Friday.

["Three of the men were arrested Thursday in Rashaya al-Fukhkhar by the South Lebanon Army militia, including two photographers who worked for the SLA-controlled Middle East Television. They are all Christian.

["A fourth man was seized in the Sunni Muslim village of Shiba'a.

["Last week the SLA announced the arrest of another Christian who also worked for the Middle East Television and was a member of the civilian administration imposed by Israel in southern Lebanon."]

Further on Detainees

NC1805184390 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 18 May 90

[Text] AFP has reported the three [as heard] detainees jailed by agent Lahd's militiamen on the charge of executing American Jewish settler [as heard] William Robinson are Pierre and Joseph 'Atallah, both employees of agent Lahd's Middle East Television, and Tony Shamiyah, a member of the so-called civil administration in Marj 'Uyun.

Iraq-Backed Ba'th Party Reemerges, Claims Attack

NC2505080290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] AFP has reported the Lebanese Ba'th Party, which is loyal to Iraq and had suspended its activities in Lebanon for more than 10 years, recently emerged in Sidon.

In a statement, the party said it launched an attack with machine guns and anti-tank shells against the South Lebanese Army on the Kafr Falus front 24 May.

AFP cited a security source as saying leaflets signed by the Ba'th Party, urging support for Baghdad, have been distributed in Iqlim al-Kharrub.

Reportage on Hizballah, Amal Clashes 25 May

Iqlim Al-Tuffah Shelled

NC2505054890 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] A state of tension prevails along the Iqlim al-Tuffah combat lines in the wake of the violent clashes which broke out between Amal and Hizballah gunmen last night. Rockets and machine guns were used in the fighting. Hizballah sources said that Kafr Milki and Tallat Hamadah were subjected to heavy bombardment from Amal positions in Kafr Hatta at 1930.

Amal Radio on Clashes

NC2505075090 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0730 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] Heavy clashes involving all types of machine guns, rockets, and RPG-7s have been raging between Amal and Hizballah gunmen in the areas of al-Janah, Sultan Ibrahim, Bi'r Hasan, and the Iranian Embassy.

Amal sources accused Hizballah gunmen of opening fire at Haydar Haydar, an Amal Movement's military official, and his aide Bilal Qaddah in the al-Janah area. [At 0645 GMT on 25 May, (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic adds that Haydar and his aide were wounded in this attack.]

Meanwhile, a Hizballah source said that Amal gunmen attacked a building in Bi'r Hasan with RPG-7 and medium-caliber machine guns. The source added that a number of Hizballah fighters were in the building during the attack.

Clashes Abate, Resume

NC2505102290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 25 May 90 90

[Excerpts] The clashes, which broke out between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Bi'r Hasan, Sultan Ibrahim, and the vicinity of the Iranian Embassy this morning, have abated. Eight have been wounded in the fighting. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Amal Movement sources have denied that Amal's military official Haydar Haydar was wounded.

[However, at 0945 GMT on 25 May, (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic reports, "Skirmishes involving machine guns and rocket shells are continuing between Amal Movement and Hizballah gunmen in the Western parts of the Suburb. Tension spread to the entire area, where schools closed after the clashes stranded the students of Sharli Sa'd School on the Kuwaiti Embassy slope.

"The clashes left 12 wounded, including members of both sides."]

Casualty Toll Updated

NC2505141890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] Extreme tension prevails in the areas of Bi'r Hasan, al-Janah, Sultan Ibrahim, and the Iranian Embassy, the outskirts of al- Awza'i, and the vicinity of the Kuwaiti Embassy in West Beirut. This follows clashes between Amal and Hizballah this morning. The Syrian forces deployed patrols this afternoon in the areas where the fighting took place.

Security sources reported that the fighting erupted after Amal military official Haydar Haydar's vehicle was fired at as it was proceeding along the Kuwaiti Embassy-al-Janah road. Haydar was wounded and Bilal Maddah, an escort, sustained grave injuries. The clashes left one person dead and 21 injured.

Tripartite Committee Issues Statement on Lebanon

LD2205082290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1840 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] Riyadh, 21 May, 1990, (SPA)—The foreign ministers of the states belonging to the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee concerned with dealing with the Lebanese crisis—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; His Excellency Dr. Abdellatif Filali, the Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; and His Excellency Sid Ahmed Ghazali, the Algerian foreign minister—today (Monday) signed at the Palace of Conferences in Riyadh the report which they prepared at the conclusion of their two-day meeting. The report will be forwarded to the leaders of the Arab higher tripartite committee.

After that, the three ministers issued the following communique:

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. During the period 24-26 Shawwal 1410 AH, corresponding to 19-21 May 1990 AD, HE Dr. Abdellatif Filali, HE Sid Ahmed Ghazali, and HRH Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign ministers of the Moroccan Kingdom, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia respectively met in the city of Riyadh in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The meeting was attended by Lakhdar Ibrahimi, the envoy of the Arab higher tripartite committee to Lebanon.

After reviewing the developments in the Lebanese arena and elsewhere since their last meeting held last month in Rabat in the Moroccan Kingdom, the ministers agreed on a program of contacts to be conducted by them. They also drew up the committee's plan of action for the coming stage in order to gain more political as well as material support at both the Arab and the international levels with the aim of continuing the peace process in lebanon and helping the Lebanese people get out of its crisis.

The ministers also reviewed the situation in the Arab scene prior to the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad and prepared a report in this regard to be submitted to the leaders of the higher tripartite Arab committee.

'Awn To Reopen Crossings in Eastern Area

NC2105165890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] We learned a short time ago that, in a statement issued by his gunmen's command, General 'Awn has announced his decision to reopen the crossing points in the eastern area as of 0600 tomorrow morning.

Al-Huss Comments on Normalizing Eastern Area

NC2305135390 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 May 90

[Text] Total quiet prevails on all axes and and in all quarters of the eastern area. Traffic is heavy on all seven internal crossing points.

Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss today emphasized the situation in the eastern area cannot be normalized by merely opening a crossing point here and removing a barrier there. He said the situation will become normal again when the legitimate authority takes over; that is, when the usurper of power departs, the institutions are reunited, peace is restored, and accord is achieved in the ranks of the Lebanese people.

In a statement today, Prime Minister al-Huss stressed the issue was not and never will be one of crossing points and combat lines. He added: If their ['Awn and Ja'ja's] issue is one of opening a crossing point here and there, then our issue is one of doing away with all crossing points and combat lines. He said all the crossing points will disappear when they abandon posts which do not belong to them. He added: They are trying in vain to involve the legitimate authority in their differences as if it were the other party to the dispute between them.

Fadlallah Says Israel Seeks To Annex S. Lebanon

NC1805192890 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 May 90

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that the Zionist entity intends to gradually annex southern Lebanon to Palestine. Fadlallah, who was delivering a Friday sermon in Imam al-Rida Mosque in Beirut's Southern Suburb today, said that the Zionist enemy is awaiting important international developments to implement his ill-omened plan. The enemy has begun preparations to normalize the situation in the region in order to usurp control. He emphasized that the Zionists absolutely reject peace with the Arabs. They are seeking to impose their views and preconditions on the Arabs. He called on all Muslims of the world to confront the suspicious plans of the United States and the Zionists.

Al-Huss Stresses Importance of Al-Ta'if Agreement

NC1905070190 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 May 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss has stated that adherence to the letter and spirit of al-Ta'if agreement has become tantamount to a national duty. He said it constitutes the last chance for the Lebanese to achieve an agreement.

In an interview to be published today, Prime Minister al-Huss said that if the Lebanese people abandon the al-Ta'if agreement this time, they will not find another Arab summit to convene for their sake, a tripartite committee to concern itself with their affairs, or a Lakhdar Ibrahimi to mediate among them.

The prime minister emphasized that, if the Lebanese people miss this opportunity, the world will wash its hands of their blood. He stated that no one has been able so far to propose an alternative to the al-Ta'if agreement.

Phalangists' Sa'adah on Scenario for Beirut Return

PM1605151790 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 May 90 p 3

[Interview with Lebanese Phalangist leader George Sa'adah by Shukri Nasrallah in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Nasrallah] There must be reasons preventing your return to Beirut. What are these reasons, and will you agree to assume the ministerial portfolio assigned to you?

[Sa'adah] The return to Beirut is not linked to my assumption of the ministerial portfolio. My political and party duties prompt me not to be far from my fields of activity or from the popular and party base from which I emerged and to which I will return.

Some may ask me: Why then did you move away from that base? Some people interpret the matter in various ways. Some have gone as far as thinking that I am trying to avoid a confrontation with that base, which I have never moved away from and which has never moved away from me. Actually the reason for my keeping a distance is that some friends found that my stay in Beirut and my performing of activities prompted by current fateful circumstances might be exploited by General 'Awn, who used to be alarmed at any statement or stance not consistent with his aspirations and aims, to embark on acts leading to a bloody conflict. So I decided to move away temporarily. [passage omitted]

As for the assumption of the ministerial portfolio, it is a different matter related to conditions which I explained to His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi, [Chamber of Deputies Speaker] Husayn al-Husayni, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, and a number of deputies and some political and religious leaders with whom consultations have never stopped. The final position on this matter will be determined in view of these conditions.

[Nasrallah] And what are these conditions which still prevent the announcement of your final position?

[Sa'adah] Some of these conditions are personal and some are general, and even the personal reasons are linked to the general situation as a whole. When we agreed to the agreement's clauses after protracted discussions and debates, our idea was that the agreement would help extend the state's authority over Lebanese territory as a whole and that the authority resulting from that agreement—whether at the presidency level or the government level—would be able to play its role in an atmosphere of freedom and democracy and shoulder its responsibility toward the people in full. But what happened was opposite to what we had hoped for. For example, the ministers—and I do not differentiate between one area or the other—were destined to stay at one hotel in a small geographical area unable to carry out productive activities. So it appeared as if their presence was confined to one area to the exclusion of the other. The same applies to his excellency the president and the Army commander. It was intended for the authorities to extend their authority over Lebanese territory as a whole, but they could not do so and cannot be held responsible for that. [passage omitted]

[Nasrallah] Why do you not return to Lebanon and lead your party and the Lebanese Front from the area controlled by [Lebanese Forces leader] Samir Ja'ja'?

[Sa'adah] I returned to Lebanon more than once after the Al-Ta'if agreement. And I carried out my political and party activities within the available resources. And I will be in Lebanon within a few days to play this role. But in view of present conditions and the destructive war which has destroyed everything, some areas of party member concentrations have been destroyed, which has led to evacuations and homelessness. And the Phalangists have been affected. In fact they have suffered a great deal as a result of that barbaric campaign. [passage omitted]

Anyhow, we will continue our activities, taking account of the conditions of the comrades who are now suffering a great deal.

[Nasrallah] Am I to understand that you are returning to resume your party role?

[Sa'adah] Yes, certainly. [passage omitted]

British, Romanian Envoys Present Credentials

NC1205112390 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 12 May 90

[Excerpt] David Taitham and Ion Astilyon, new ambassadors from the UK and Romania respectively, have presented their credentials to President Ilyas al-Hirawi in the presence of Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss, Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, and Director of Protocol Amb. 'Asim Jabir. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Minister Arrives With Mubarak Message

Issues Statement to SANA

JN2405161490 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Damascus, 24 May (SANA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a visit to Syria.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, Syrian Ambassador to Egypt 'Isa Darwish, Egyptian Ambassador to Syria Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi, Egyptian Embassy staff, and the director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry received him at Damascus international airport.

In a statement to SANA, 'Abd-al-Majid said: I am very glad to have the opportunity again to visit sisterly Syria, having been honored to visit it in the company of President Husni Mubarak. He added: I am bringing a message from President Husni Mubarak to his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. During this visit, I shall be pleased to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad and give him this message. Every time I visit Syria, I feel further rapprochement between Egypt and Syria, which is what we always seek.

Concluding, 'Abd-al-Majid said: Syria's stance on current Arab causes is excellent and I very much appreciate it.

Received by Al-Asad

JN2405181590 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first undersecretary of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and head of the President's Office for Political Affairs, at 1930 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Egyptian Ambassador in Damascus Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi attended the meeting.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid conveyed to the president a message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The president asked him to convey a reply. Their talks centered on the situation in the Arab arena.

Departs With Al-Asad Message

JN2505113690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of th Egyptian Foreign Ministry and head of the President's Office for Political Affairs, left Damascus this morning after a visit to Syria during which he conveyed a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from President Husni Mubarak. President al-Asad sent a reply message to President Mubarak through the Egyptian foreign minister.

The two Egyptian officials were seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Deputy Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, Syrian Ambassador in Cairo 'Isa Darwish, Egyptian ambassador in Damascus Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi, and the director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

Saddam's 'Treachery' Against Arab Nation Depicted

JN2105221090 Damascus Voice of Iraq in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 May 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] [Words indistinct] he openly resorts to blackmail operations against the Arab states by exploiting the sectarian and regional conflicts in this or that area in an obvious strategy to muster backing and support. When he fails to exploit these conflicts, he resorts to fabricating planned and agreed upon differences to depict his regime as patriotic, pan-Arab, and eager to promote the Arab nation's interests and defeat its enemies, as he recently did.

It is well known that the dictator, who is launching an all-out war against the [word indistinct] that exists in the minds of his people concerning his reckless adventure which aims to serve the enemy, cannot fight the nation's enemies for the nation's sake, especially since he fought for the sake of the Zionists and the imperialists for many years. Therefore, the Iraqi regime's methods can no longer deceive any of our people or our nation. They only evoke anger and sarcasm toward a regime which opted for the path of pan-Arab treason and lied by raising the slogans of hostility and resistance to the nation's enemies.

Saddam Husayn realized the failure of his endeavors to obtain general support for his regime with a summit to be held in Baghdad within a special mold and for purely personal objectives that have nothing to do with the fateful Arab issues. Therefore, he resorted to this [word indistinct] by igniting fires here and there and fueling them with weapons and resources to draw the Arabs' attention away from their future and from their struggles with their real enemies. He now returns to Lebanon to stir the sectarian war in eastern Beirut, which was destroyed by the missiles, shells, sophisticated weapons, and other means which he gave to both warring sides in eastern Beirut [words indistinct] and which, along with Israeli weapons, contributed toward wrecking schools and establishments and threatening life there. Under the shadow of Saddam Husayn, Baghdad is reunifying the plotters to start another fire in Lebanon, on whose southern border the Zionist enemy lays waiting.

Here the question arises: Is a regime that is uniting the plotters against the nation to start wars and small struggles fit to play a completely opposite role, namely that of unifying the nation to realize its salvation and fight its enemies by holding a comprehensive Arab summit? This can never be realized. Nor can the Baghdad regime do it, because it has been accustomed to treachery, to stabbing the Arab nation in the back, and to representing the enemies by launching wars which realized for them many gains that they could never have dreamed of otherwise—especially the Iraq-Iran war, which benefited Saddam's Zionist allies who blessed it from the very beginning and voiced their happiness with it.

The 1980's witnessed important events in more than one part of the Arab homeland. Saddam Husayn had a hand in these events. The eighties also witnessed great losses for the Arabs which could have been spared but for the plots of Saddam Husayn, who is now calling for Arab solidarity and drawing attention to the dangerous situation and the Zionist threats to the Arabs. Saddam offered the Arabs' enemies more than one [word indistinct] and more than one guarantee that Iraq is not a confrontation state, and that his regime does not think of any pan-Arab war with the Zionists. Furthermore, he extended more assistance to the enemy through bribes, deals, and secret agreements with the leaders of the Zionist enemy brokered by well-known mediators and with well-recorded details reported by Arab and world media.

It is true that the Arab house suffers from the absence of a (?main pillar). Therefore, this house needs to be put in order. It should be cleansed of thieves and traitors who constitute a dangerous burden on its unity, dignity, and power. Saddam Husayn is aware of his position and that of his regime in this house.

'Hasty Summit' To 'Alienate' Pan-Arab Interests

JN2405123190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 May 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Political Crossword Puzzle", AL-THAWRAH says: These Arab times are lost in the absence of political Arab theory and action. Amid this comes the call for an Arab summit to serve personal purposes and alienate the high pan-Arab interest to satisfy individual whims. In this fatal vacuum, Arab blood is shed in every city, village, and camp in the occupied territories. The brutal Zionist massacre near Tel Aviv highlights the difference between Arab words and Zionist action. There is mere Arab talk, and, on the other side, Zionist action. The Zionist action does not go beyond what the Arab talk warns against, but it reveals the weakness of this talk and points to its sins.

The paper asks: What is the position of those who want a hasty summit vis-a-vis the current situation? And what will a summit do? This is an impromptu summit that cannot define the features of a unified high strategy for the Arab nation. How can this summit possibly convince the Arab citizen, who is sick and tired of the political crossword puzzle?

U.S. Group Visits on 'Pilgrimage for Peace'

Received by Al-Asad

JN2405152490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] At 1300 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received a visiting U.S. delegation led by Charles Percy, former Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman.

Visiting Syria under the slogan, "Pilgrimage for peace," the delegation comprises representatives of various American organizations. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting.

Al-Asad on Peace, Hostage Efforts

JN2405185590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] At 1300 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received a U.S. delegation visiting Syria led by Charles Percy, former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The delegation comprises representatives of various U.S. organizations and institutions. It is visiting Syria under the slogan, "Pilgrimage for peace."

At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Percy expressed appreciation for Syria's positive role in the region. He said: There will be no peace in the region without the participation of Syria. Peace will not be established on a solid basis without international guarantees. Mr. Percy also said that the members of the delegation were moved by the evidence of destruction they had seen in al-Qunaytirah. He added: The delegation is looking forward to a peace in the region that would avert such destruction and all the sorrows of war.

The president said that Syria wants peace. He said: We aspire to a just, comprehensive peace that restores our lands and returns the territories to their status in 1967. The president added: This approach is not new. It has existed since the early 70s. We have not ignored any initiative that contains the hope of achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

The president noted that piecemeal, unilateral solutions do not lead to the establishment of peace, and that peace cannot exist unless it is comprehensive. The president said: The experience of past years proves this.

The president added: The road to peace is contained in UN Resolution No. 338. You can say in your country and elsewhere in the world that we want a just peace and that we want our lands.

Members of the delegation expressed their thanks to the president and to Syria for their efforts to free the hostages. The president explained that Syria will continue to pursue its efforts to release the hostages.

Peace Group Departs Damascus

JN2505091590 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0840 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] Damascus, 25 May (SANA)—The U.S. delegation led by Charles Percy, former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, comprising representatives of various U.S. institutions, left Damascus this morning after a two-day visit to Syria.

The delegation was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Mr. Zuhayr Janan, director of the public relations and foreign information office at the Information Ministry, and a number of officials at the ministries of information and foreign affairs.

AL-BA'TH—U.S. Credibility 'Down to Zero'

JN2505094890 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0740 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] Damascus, 25 May (SANA)—The newspaper AL-BA'TH has said that the United States supports peace, but at the same time supports a heavily armed Israel ever determined to impose the status quo on the Arabs.

Under the headline "No Peace at the Expense of Land and Rights," the paper says in today's editorial: The Arabs cannot possibly accept the immigration of hundreds of thousands of Jews because this threatens their security, and they cannot accept the policy of Shamir and Sharon, because it targets Arab lands and existence. The Arabs, therefore, are out of line with U.S. policy, which supports Jewish immigration and finances the Zionist settlement projects.

The paper adds: If the United States is willing to play a peaceful role in the Middle East, then it should listen to its Israeli allies claiming that the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan heights are Israeli territories. The United States will then know who the true enemies of peace in the region are.

The paper stresses that the United States knows all the details of the Zionist strategy. However, while it claims to be anxious for peace, it is eager to turn Israel into a nuclear and chemical arsenal. This takes U.S. credibility on peace down to zero or even far below.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH notes President Hafiz al-Asad's assertion that we want the peace that secures our full rights, and we will not make decisions on behalf of the coming Arab generations, even if this means we must fight for a hundred or more years.

200,000 in Al-Yarmuk Camp Protest Against Israel

JN2405221390 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 May 90

[Excerpts] Syrian and Palestinian masses in the Damascus of Arabism have expressed their anger and denunciation of the criminal operation carried out by the Zionist enemy against the Palestinian Arab workers last Sunday [20 May], an operation which adds to the Nazi, criminal Zionist record more brutal, inhumane practices committed against Arab citizens in occupied Palestine.

Syrian and Palestinian masses set out this morning in a massive rally in which the participants amounted to 200,000 citizens, who went through the streets of al-Yarmuk camp [in Damascus]. [passage omitted]

Citizens shouted slogans saying that this criminal operation provides fresh evidence of the fascism and racism of the Zionist enemy, which is practicing killing and deportation against our people, and is seeking to destroy them inside the occupied homeland in order to abort their valiant intifadah and deport them in accordance with the new—but old—Zionist scheme to empty Palestine of its kinsfolk and settle emigrant Jews from all over the world there. [passage omitted]

When the marchers reached the Martyrs' Cemetery, they addressed a protest cable to the UN secretary general, the permanent members of the Security Council, and the presidents and kings of the Arab countries. The cable reads: The masses of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories are being subjected to a Zionist scheme to exterminate them. This has been manifested through suppression and the state's official oppression, starting with the connected crimes, then bringing thousands of emigrants and confiscating Arab lands, and ending with arbitrary arrest campaigns, deportation of Palestinians, breaking their bones, and burying them alive.

The cable called on the entire world to condemn the enemy's new crime against the Palestinian people in which eight workers were killed and 17 wounded, which was called the Bloody Sunday massacre of 20 May 1990. On this day, citizens were assassinated in cold blood in the context of a scheme to liquidate Palestinian people, which is being carried out by the Zionist entity—soldiers and settlers. This proves beyond doubt the aim of the conspiracy against our people—to establish Greater Israel at the expense of our Palestinian people, their freedom, and land, and the Arab nation and its pan-Arab security.

The cable also called on the world's conscience—in the name of millions of homeless, agonized Palestinians—to support the struggle of the Palestinian people and their just, inalienable rights, to extend support in all forms to the intifadah, and put an end to Israeli belligerence and its defiance of the world community.

Al-Shar' Talks Described as 'Cordial, Objective'

JN2105155190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 May 90

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at noon today the Iraqi president's envoy, Justice Minister Akram 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Ali, who arrived this morning aboard a private aircraft. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The meeting is still going on.

It has been announced that the Iraqi envoy's mission is related to conveying an invitation to President Hafiz al-Asad to take part in the proposed Arab summit in Baghdad on 28 May.

President al-Asad had earlier announced that Syria will not take part in this summit on any level. In exchange, Syria called for holding an extraordinary meeting for the Arab foreign ministers in Tunis to prepare for the summit and fix its venue.

The Iraqi envoy's visit, the first of its kind in the 10 years, is the result of intensive contacts and mediation regarding Syria's participation [in the summit]. Among these efforts we note the current visit to Damascus by Hani al-Hasan, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser for political affairs, who met last night with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Today, al-Hasan told our radio that his meeting with al-Shar' was cordial, objective and fraternal, and lasted for more than two hours. He said that bilateral relations and Arab solidarity, including the convening of the Arab summit, were discussed during the meeting.

Al-Hasan stated that Palestine is interested in Syria's attendance at the Arab summit. He said that 'Arafat is doing his best to create a climate of Arab understanding, at the forefront of which is Syria-Iraqi reconciliation, which, al-Hasan said, constitutes the cornerstone for the Palestinian leadership in the face of the Israeli fascist right.

UN Mission To Investigate Human Rights Abuses

JN2405075590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 23 May 90

[Text] Damascus—A UN fact-finding mission headed by Ambassador Perera, Sri Lankan representative to the United Nations, arrived in Damascus today.

Ambassador Perera made a statement upon his arrival to the SANA correspondent, in which he said: We are a special mission appointed by the UN special political committee to investigate the violation of Arab people's human rights in the occupied Arab territories and Palestine.

He added: During the visit we will try to obtain a direct view of what is going on in the occupied territories and meet with eyewitnesses to obtain a fuller picture of what is happening in the region.

Ba'th Official on Elections, Intifadah Support

JN2505071690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 15151 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, met today with comrades participating in the central course of party education at the political sciences institute.

At the outset, Comrade al-Ahmar conveyed to the participants the greetings of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and president of the Republic, as well as the greetings of the party's leadership.

After listening to the opinions of the comrades and their impressions of the course, its achievements, and their inquiries and suggestions, Comrade al-Ahmar spoke about party education in the context of efforts by the party leadership to qualify leading cadres for the party and the community. He also explained the mission of struggle undertaken by our party in the area of organization, mass action, and the changes that have taken place in all areas under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad.

Comrade al-Ahmar referred to the People's Assembly elections for the fifth legislative term. He said: Election campaigns in all the governorates have turned into popular festivals, through which the masses expressed their support for the party leadership and its secretary general struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. He said the results will be a new expression of the vitality of our people and their adherence to the approach of the party and its leader.

Comrade al-Ahmar also reviewed the developments of the political situation in the Arab and world arenas, the current developments, as well as the conspiratorial attempts carried out by hostile forces, represented in Zionism and imperialism to peddle capitulationist projects, humiliate the Arab nation, and impose on it the schemes of hegemony and expansion.

Comrade al-Ahmar asserted Syria's concern with effective Arab solidarity which serves the principal battle against the Zionist enemy and supports the intifadah, which is facing the occupation forces and is working to restore usurped Arab rights.

Afghanistan

'Final Text' of Constitution Draft Amendments

LD2305110890 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 19 May 90

["Final Text" of draft constitutional amendments approved by commission chaired by Vice President Abdul Rahim Hatif in its concluding session on 19 May—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Our beloved homeland Afghanistan has a proud history replete with the heroic struggle of our brave people for freedom, independence, national sovereignty, democracy, and social progress. The transformation that has taken place in our country in the course of the recent year has provided favorable conditions for achieving high objectives, progress of the country and prosperity of the people. In present conditions the PDPA [People's Democartic Party of Afghanistan] as the designer and organizer of the national reconciliation policy together with other national and democratic political forces is actively pursing this humanitarian policy.

Therefore to consolidate the independence, national sovereignty, and to defend the territorial integrity of the country; to achieve reconciliation and consolidate national unity, keeping in view objective realities, the tradition and customs of the people; to ensure social justice and equality; develop the national economy and the living standards of the people; raise the role and authority of our beloved homeland, Afghanistan, in the international arena: We, the representatives of the people of Afghanistan in the Loya Jirga [Grand National Assembly] perceiving the historic changes that are taking place in our country and in the contemporary world, pursuing the tenets of the sacred religions of Islam, preserving and enriching the heritage of the constitutionalist movement of the country, paying respect to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, endorse this Constitution as the most important national document on 30 November 1987 in 13 chapters and 149 articles.

The draft amendments:

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

The proud history of our beloved country, Afghanistan, replete with heroic struggle of our brave people for freedom, independence, national sovereignty, national unity, democracy and social progress. At the present stage the State of the Republic of Afghanistan, based on the support of the national, political, and patriotic forces, is pursuing actively the national reconciliation policy,

Therefore taking into account the historic transformations which have taken place in our country and contemporary world, pursuing the tenets of the sacred religion of Islam, observing the worthy Afghan traditions and customs, based on the facts about the history and culture of the country, paying respect to the enriching heritage of the constitutionalist movement and in accordance with the charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights, and based on protection of independence, defense of territorial integrity and consolidation of national sovereignty; achievement of nationwide peace and deepening of the national unity; ensuring justice and democracy; reconstruction and development of the national economy and enhancement of the living standards of the people; raising the role and authority of the country in the international arena, creation of favorable conditions for approving the legal position of the permanent neutrality of Afghanistan and its demilitarisation, the following amendments to the Constitution approved by the Loya Jirga on 30 Nov 1987 have been discussed:

The articles of the Constitution:

Chapter 1: Foundation of the state political system.

Article 1: The Republic of Afghanistan is an independent, unitary, and indivisible state, having sovereignty over the whole of its territory. The national sovereignty in the Republic of Afghanistan belongs to the people. The people ensure national sovereignty through the Loya Jirga, Meli Shura [National Assembly] and local councils.

In the draft amendments: Article 1: The Republic of Afghanistan is independent, unitary, indivisible and Islamic, having sovereignty over the whole of its territory. National sovereignty in the Republic of Afghanistan belongs to the people. The people ensure national sovereignty through the Loya Jirgah and Meli Shura.

Article 5: The formation of the political parties in the Republic of Afghanistan is allowed provided their platform, charter, and activity are not opposed to the instructions of the Constitution and laws of the ocuntry. A party formed in accordance with the provisions of the law cannot be dissolved without legal causes.

In the draft amendments: Article 5: The plurality of political parties constitutes the foundation of the political system of the Republic of Afghanistan. Political parties can be formed in the republic of Afghanistan provided their platform, charter, and activity are not opposed to the instructions of the Constitution and laws of the country. The structure and financial resources of a political party cannot remain covert. A party that is formed based on the instructions of law cannot be dissolved without legal cause. Judges and prosecutors cannot hold membership of a political party during their term of office.

Article 6: The National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan as the most extensive sociopolitical organization, unites political parties, social organizations and individual members included in its ranks for their active participation in political, state, and social spheres on the basis of a common program.

In the draft amendments this article was dropped.

Article 7: Formation of social organizations and trade unions are allowed in the Republic of Afghanistan according to law. The state assists in upgrading the role of the trade unions, peasants cooperatives, youth and womens' organizations and other social organizations in all political, economic, social, and cultural life of the country, and ensures the cooperation and mutual relations of the state organs with them.

In the draft amendments: Article 7: Formation of social organisations in the Republic of Afghanistan is allowed in accordance with the law.

Article 9: The insignia of the Republic of Afghanistan consists of a rising sun, sanctum and pulpit with a green background ensconced in two sheaves of wheat, [word indistinct] and with tricolor ribbon in black, red, and green.

In the draft amendments: Article 9: The insignia of the Republic of Afghanistan consists of a rising sun, sanctum and pulpit with a green background ensconced in sheaves of wheat and with tricolor ribbon in black, red and green.

The national anthem of the Republic of Afghanistan shall be approved by the Wolasi Jirga [House of Representatives].

In the draft amendments this article was dropped.

Article 19: In the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, cooperative, mixed, private, personal, and trust property as well as property of the social and political organizations [shall exist]. The state shall protect all forms of legal properties.

In the draft amendments: Article 19: In the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, cooperatives, mixed, private, and property of the social and political organizations [shall exist]. Property is safe from violation. The state shall protect all forms of legal properties.

Article 20: Underground resources, forests, pastures, and other natural wealth, energy resources, historic relics, banks, insurance institutions, means of communication, radio and television establishments, big dams, ports, main means of production in heavy industry, transportation systems and air transport are among the state property. The state shall strengthen and develop the state sector of the economy.

In the draft amendments: Article 20: In the Republic of Afghanistan underground resources, forests, pastures, mines, basic energy resources, historic relics, banks, insurance institutions, means of communication, radio and television establishments, big dams, ports, transportation systems and air transport are among the state property. Investment by the private sector to use forests, pastures, energy recources, mines, and to sell and purchase means of communication is allowed in accordance with the law. In the Republic of Afghanistan alongside the bank, insurance institutions, and state air transport, the formation of share-banking, insurance, and various air transport [companies] is allowed in accordance with the law. In the Republic of Afghanistan the activity of the representatives of foreign banks and insurance companies is allowed in accordance with the law.

Article 23: The state guarantees the ownership right of peasants and landowners on land in accordance with the law. The state shall adopt necessary measures for the implementation of democratic changes in agriculture, keeping in view the interests of peasants and landowners. The state encourages the establishment of big agricultural and mechanized state, mixed, and private farms and helps the reclamation of virgin lands.

In the draft amendments: Article 23: The state in order to revive and develop agriculture shall provide supplementary agricultural assistance to peasants and landowners and shall give effective assistance in the formation of agricultural and mechanized mixed and private farms and reclamation of virgin lands.

In the Republic of Afghanistan domestic and foreign trade is regulated by the state, observing the people's interests. Toward this end, the state encourages the activity of the national capital holders in the expansion of export and import of goods and development of wholesale and retail trade, and undertakes the fixing and controlling of prices. The state encourages the augmentation of production and raising of the quality of export goods and protects them vis-a-vis the competition of foreign capital and monopoly.

In the draft amendments the article was dropped.

Article 27: For the growth of the national economy, the state permits foreign investment in the Republic of Afghanistan and regulates it in accordance with law.

Article 27: [Amended Version] For the growth of the national economy, the state encourages foreign investment in the Repubic of Afghanistan and regulates it in accordance with law.

Article 56: Citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan shall have free education. The state shall adopt necessary measures for eradication of illiteracy, ensuring balanced education, education in the mother tongue, ensuring compulsory elementary education, gradual expansion of general technical and vocational and professional education and growth of the higher education systems for training national cadres. In the Republic of Afghanistan permission will be given to foreigners to establish schools in accordance with the law. These schools can only be used by foreign people.

In the draft amendments: Article 56: Citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan shall have free education. The state shall adopt necessary measures for the eradication of illiteracy, ensuring a balanced education, education in the mother tongue, ensuring compulsory elementary education, gradual expansion of general technical and vocational and professional education and growth of the higher education systems for training national cadres. In the Republic of Afghanistan formation of educational and training establishments by the private sector and by foreign persons is allowed in accordance with the law.

Chapter 4, Loya Jirga: Article 66: The Loya Jirga consists of:
1. Members of the Meli Shura.
2. Ten persons from each province and its equivalent unit elected by the people.
3. Governors and mayors of Kabul.
4. The Prime minister, deputies to the prime minister, and members of the Council of Ministers.
5. Attorney general and deputies of the attorney general and members of the Attorney General's Office.
6. General prosecutor and his deputies.
7. Chairman and members of the Council of the Constitution.
8. Members of the Executive Committee of the National Front.
9. At least 50 persons from among the political, scientific, social and religious figures who shall be appointed by the president on the recommendation of the secretariat of the National Front.

In the draft amendments: Article 66: The Loya Jirgah consists of:
1. President and vice presidents.
2. Members of the Meli Shura.
3. Prime minister, deputies to the prime minister and members of the Council of Ministers.
4. Attorney General and deputies of the Attorney General and members of the Attorney General's Office.
5. General Prosecutor.
6. Chairman of the Council of the Constitution.
7. Head of the Provincial Councils.
8. Representatives from each province according to the number of their representatives in the Wolasi Jirgah, elected by the people by general in equal, free, secret, and direct voting.
9. At least 50 persons from among the political, scientific, social, and religious figures who shall be appointed by the president.

Article 75: In addition to powers prescribed in this Constitution, he [the president] enjoys the following authorities:
1. Supreme command of the Armed Forces.
2. Approval of laws and resolutions of the Meli Shura.
3. Appointment of the prime minister designate to form a government.
4. Approval of the head of members of the government after receiving the vote of confidence from the Wolasi Jirga and acceptance of their resignations.
5. Convocations and heading the session of the Council of Ministers [word indistinct]
6. Approval, appointment, promotion, and pensions of judges, high ranking officials and officers of the Armed Forces according to the provisions of law.
7. Taking a decision on ascertaining public opinion or [holding of a] referendum on major political, social, and economic issues.
8. Pardon and remission of sentences.
9. Appointment of the heads of the diplomatic representations of the Republic of Afghanistan in foreign countries and international organizations.
10. Acceptance of the credentials of the heads of diplomatic missions of foreign states in the Republic of Afghanistan.
11. Declaration of a state of emergency, general and partial mobilization and termination thereof.
12. Declaration of war and peace with the agreement of the Loya Jirgah.
13. Authorization to issue money.
14. Granting citizenship and asylum in accordance with the law.
15. Granting orders, medals, and honorary titles in accordance with the law.
16. Exercise of other powers in accordance with the law.

In the draft amemdments: Article 75: In addition to the powers prescribed in this Constitution, he [the president] enjoys the following authorities:
1. Supreme command of the Armed Forces.
2. Approval of laws and resolutions of the Meli Shura.
3. Appointment of the prime minister-designate to form a government.
4. Approval of the prime minister and deputy prime minister and ministers after receiving the vote of confidence from the Wolasi Jirgah and acceptance of their resignations.
5. Convocation and heading the sessions of the council of ministers if necessary.
6. Approval, appointment, promotion, and pensions of judges, highranking officials and officers of the Armed Forces according to the provisions of law.
7. Taking decisions on ascertaining public opinion or [holding a] referendum on major political, social, and economic issues.
8. Pardon and remission of sentences.
9. Appointment of the heads of the diplomatic representations of the Republic of Afghanistan in foreign countries and international organizations.
10. Acceptance of the credentials of the heads of diplomatic missions of foreign states in the Republic of Afghanistan.
11. Declaration of the state of emergency, general, and partial mobilisation and termination thereof.
12. Declaration of war and peace with the agreement of the Loya Jirgah.
13. Authorization to issue money.
14. Granting citizenship and asylum in accordance with the law.
15. Granting orders, medals, and honorary titles in accordance with the law.
16. Approval of the national anthem of the Republic of Afghanistan.
17. Abrogation of laws and other legal documents whose lack of conformity with the Constitution has been approved by the Council of the Constitution.
18. Formation of the administrative apparatus of the Presidency.

19. Exercise of other powers in accordance with the law. The president can delegate some of his legal powes to the vice presidents.

Chapter 6: Meli Shura Article 77: The National Assembly is the highest legislative body of the Republic of Afghanistan.

In the draft amendments: Article 77: The National Assembly, parliament, is the highest legislative body of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Article 79: The representatives to the Wolasi Jirga shall be elected through constituencies based on equal numbers of population for a five-year legislative period. The members of the Sena [senate], senators, will be elected and appointed in the following order:
1. Two persons from every province and their equivalent units for a period of five years.
2. Two persons from among the members of councils of every province and their equivalent for a period of three years by the relevant council.
3. The remaining one-third of the members shall be appointed for a period of four years by the president from among the learned, scholarly, and credible individuals and national personalities.

In the draft amendments: Article 79: The representatives of the people to the Wolasi Jirgah shall be elected through general, equal, free, secret, and direct voting for a five-year legislative period in accordance with the law.

The members of the Sena, that is senators, shall be elected and appointed in the following order:
1. Two persons from every province for a period of five years elected by the people.
2. Two persons from among the members of the councils of every province for a period of three years by the relevant council.
3. The remaining one-third of the members shall be appointed for a period of four years by the president from among the learned, scholarly, and credible individuals and national personalities.

Article 81: The National Assembly in addition to the powers prescribed in this Constitution has the following power:
1. Approval, amendment, and nullification of legislative laws and decrees and their presentation to the president for ratification.
2. Interpretation of laws.
3. Ratification and annulment of international treaties.
4. Approval of socioeconomic development plans and endorsement of the government's report on the performance thereof.
5. Approval of the state budget and endorsement of the report on its performance.
6. Establishment of administrative units and their changes.
7. Formation and abolition of ministries and their equivalent central organs.
8. Making decisions on the appointment and dismissal of vice presidents based on the introduction and demands of the president.
9. Permission to the state to obtain loans and granting privileges of substantial importance in the national economy including monopoly.
10. Determining the categories of orders, medals, and honorary titles by the law.
11. Approval of establishment of relations with foreign countries and international organizations.
12. Hearing the answer given by the prime ministers and members of the government in the questioning session on the duties included in the powers of the government.

In the draft amendment: Article 81:

The National Assembly in addition to the powers prescribed in this Constitution has the following power:
1. Approval, amendment and nullification of legislative law, and decrees and their presentation to the president for ratification.
2. Interpretation of laws.
3. Ratification and annulment of international treaties.
4. Approval of socioeconomic development plans and endorsement of the government's report on the performance thereof.
5. Approval of the state budget and endorsement of the report on its performance.
6. Establishment of administrative units and their changes.
7. Formation and abolition of ministries.
8. Taking decisions on the appointment and dismissal of vice presidents based on the introduction and demand of the president.
9. Permission to the state to obtain loans and granting privileges of substantial importance in the national economy including monopoly.
10. Determining orders, medals, and honorary titles by the law.
11. Approval of establishments of relations with other countries and international organizations.
12. Hearing the answers given by the prime ministers and members of the government, in the questioning session, on the procedures including in the powers of the government.

Article 83: Each house of the National Assembly elects at its first session, a commission from among its members to authenticate credentials. This commission reports the results of its findings to the relevant house. The house shall approve the authority of the representatives and in case of violation of the law on elections shall discredit the credentials of the members of the National Assembly.

In the draft amendments: Article 83: Each house of the National Assembly elects at its first session, a commission from among its members to authenticate credentials. This commission reports the results of its findings to the relevant house.

Article 89: Each house of the National Assembly shall elect permanent commissions from among its members for primary assessment, preparation of the issues included in the powers of each house and observation of the implementation of laws and decisions of each house.

In the draft amendment: Article 89: Each house of the National Assembly shall elect permanent commissions from among its members for primary assessment and preparing the issues included in the power of each house.

Article 92: The members of the Council of Ministers can take part in the sessions of the National Assembly with consultative votes.

In the draft amendments: Article 92: The members of the Council of Ministers can take part, with the permission of the chairman of the session with consultative votes in the sessions of both houses of National Assembly and their permanent commissions.

Article 94: The following authorities enjoy the right of proposing the endorsement, amendment, and abolition of laws in each house of the National Assembly:
1. The president.
2. the standing commissions of the both houses of the National Assembly.
3. At least one-tenth of the membership of each house.
4. The Council of Ministers.
5. The Supreme Court.
6. The Attorney General's Office.
7. The executive body of the National Front.
8. The Council of 'Ulema and Religious Leaders.

In the draft amendments: Article 94: The following authorities enjoy the right of proposing the endorsement, amendment, and abolition of laws in each houses of the National Assembly:
1. The President.
2. The standing commissions of the both houses of National Assembly.
3. At least one-tenth of the membership of each house.
4. The Council of Ministers.
5. The Supreme Court.
6. The Attorney General's Office.

In case the endorsement of, abolition, and amendments in laws causes an increase in expenditure or reduction in the income of the state, an advance agreement shall be taken from the government in this regard.

Article 95: Unless otherwise prescribed in this Constitution, the decision of one house on the basis of powers set out in Article 81 will be sent to other house. In cases when the decision of one house is rejected by the other house, a joint panel will be set up with an equal number of members from both houses in order to reach an agreement. A decision agreed by the joint panel shall be considered valid after approval by the president. If the joint panel does not reach agreement, the matter shall be discussed at a joint session of the national Assembly and a decision shall be taken by a majority vote of the members.

Amended draft version:

Article 95: Unless otherwise prescribed in this Constitution, the decisions of one house on the basis of powers set out in Article 81 will be sent to other house. In cases when the decision of one house is rejected by the other house, a joint panel will be set up with an equal number of members from both houses to reach an agreement. A decision by the joint panel, which will be agreed by a two-thirds vote, shall be considered valid after approval by the president. If the joint panel does not succeed in eliminating the difference of opinion, the matter shall be discussed at a joint session of both houses and a decision shall be taken by a majority vote of the members.

Article 96: The decisions of the National Assembly are valid after being signed by the president. If the president does not agree with a decision of the National Assembly, he may return it to the National Assembly within 30 days from the date of its presentation, giving the reasons for so doing. After the elapse of 30 days, should the National Assembly approve it again at its next session by two-thirds of the votes of the members, the decision is considered valid and the president will sign it.

Amended draft version: Article 96: The decisions of the national Assembly are valid after being signed by the president. If the president does not agree with a decision of the National Assembly, he may return it to the National Assembly within 30 days from the date of its presentation, giving the reasons for so doing. After the elapse of 30 days or also should the National Assembly approve it in both houses in their next separate sessions by a two-thirds majority of the members' votes, the decision is considered valid and the president will sign it.

Article 97: The president can declare, after consultations with the chairman of the Council of Representatives, the Council of Elders, the Council of Ministers and the Attorney-General, the dissolution of the Council of Representatives, indicating the reasons for doing so. Fresh elections shall be held within 30 days after the dissolution of the Council of Representatives. The dissolution of the new Council of Representatives cannot take place until one year of its election. The Council of Representatives cannot be dissolved during the last six months of the president's term of office.

Amended draft version: Article 97: The president can declare, after consultation with the prime minister, chairman of the House of Representatives, chairman of the Sena, attorney-general, and the chairman of the Council of the Constitution, the dissolution of the National Assembly, indicating the reasons for doing so. New elections shall be held within three months after the dissolution of the National Assembly. The new National Assembly cannot be dissolved until one year after its elections. Wolasi Jirga or National Assembly cannot be dissolved during the last six months of the president's term of office.

Article 99: The rules of procedure of the National Assembly and its standing commissions shall be regulated by the National Assembly.

Amended draft version: Article 99: The method of procedure of every house of the National Assembly and of its permanent commissions, are regulated by the work-method of the related house, in accordance with the Constitution and valid laws.

Article 100: The Council of Ministers is the highest executive and administrative organ of state power of the Republic of Afghanistan. The Council of Ministers is composed of the prime minister, deputy prime ministers, ministers and heads of the central bodies equivalent to ministries.

Amended draft version: The Council of Ministers, ie. the government, is the highest executive organ of the Republic of Afghanistan. The Council of Ministers is composed of: the prime minister, the deputy prime ministers and ministers.

Article 103: The Council of Ministers enjoys the following duties and authority:
(1) planning and implementing foreign and domestic policy.
(2) ensuring the accomplishment of national economic tasks, drafting socioeconomic development plans, drawing up the state budget, implementing the plans and the budget and presenting reports on their fulfilment to the National Assembly.
(3) Taking measures to defend state interests, protection of all types of legal property, ensuring public order, and taking measures for the protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens.
(4) General guidance of foreign relations, the establishment of diplomatic relations with foreign states and international organizations in line with the law.
(5) Creative departments and bodies attached to the Council of Ministers.
(6) Other powers in accordance with the law. The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan, within the framework of its powers, approves regulations, charters, and other legislative documents.

Amended draft version: Article 103: The Council of Ministers enjoys the following duties and authority:
(1) Planning and implementing domestic and foreign policy.
(2) Regulating national economic affairs, drafting socioeconomic development plans, drawing up the state budget, implementing the plans and the budget and presenting reports on their implementation to the National Assembly.
(3) Taking measures to defend public interests, protection of all types of legal property, ensuring public order and security and the protection of the rights and freedoms of the citizens.
(4) In accordance with the articles of law, guidance on foreign relations, the establishment of of diplomatic relations with other states and international institutions and signing agreements.
(5) With the approval of the president, the creation of departments and organs within the framework of the Council of Ministers.
(6) The approval of bills and charters within the limits of authority in accordance with law.
(7) Other powers in accordance with the law. Bills, charters and other resolutions of the Council of Ministers are presented to the president.

Article 105: The term of office of the Council of Ministers shall end with the conclusion of the legislative term. The government whose term has ended carries on its duties until the formation of a new Council of Ministers.

Amended draft version: Article 105. The government is dissolved in the following conditions:
(1) Resignation of the prime minister
(2) Chronic illness of the prime minister or an illness needing hard treatment or death.
(3) Withdrawal of confidence by the National Assembly from the government.
(4) Termination of the legislative term.
(5) The dissolution of the Wolasi Jirga or National Assembly.

In all these cases the government dissolved carries on its duties, headed by a person included in Article 100 of the Constitution which shall be commissioned by the president until the formation of a new government. In the case of the dissolution of Wolasi Jirga or National Assembly the government continues its duties until the formation of a new Wolasi Jirga or National Assembly. If the government is dissolved at the time of vocation or dissolution of the Wolasi Jirga or National Assembly, a new government is formed by the president. At the beginning of legislative session the prime minister presents the policy and composition of the government to the Wolasi Jirgah for obtaining the vote of confidence.

Article 107: The judiciary is an independent organ of state.

Amended draft version:

Article 107: Juiciary, i.e. judicial power is an independent component of state.

Article 108: Judgment in the Republic of Afghanistan is carried out by courts of law in accordance with the provisions of the law. Courts in the Republic of Afghanistan, are: the Supreme Court, provincial courts, divisional courts, district courts, subdistrict courts, city courts, district courts, ward courts and courts of the armed forces. The state may set up specialized courts within a unified system of judiciary.

Amended draft version:

Article 108: Judgment in the Republic of Afghanistan is carried out by courts in accordance with the law. Judicial power is composed of the Supreme Court and those courts which are formed on the basis of law. The state may set up specialized courts within the unified system of judiciary.

Article 110: The chief justice, deputy chief justices and members of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the president for a six-year period. The Supreme Court reports about its activities to the president and is responsible to him.

Amended draft version:

Article 110: Chief justice, supreme court deputies and members, in accordance with the law, are appointed by the president. Chief justice is responsible to the president and is duty bound to report to him.

Chapter 9: Public Prosecutor

Article 117: The public prosecutor's office of the Republic of Afghanistan is a unified system based on the principles of centralism and is composed of: the attorney-general, attorney of provinces, divisions, districts, subdistricts, cities, wards and attorney of the armed forces. The state can set up a special attorney's office within the unified attorney system.

Amended draft version:

Article 117: The public prosecutor office of the Republic of Afghanistan is a unified system based on the principle of centralism and is composed of the attorney-general's office and other of those attorney offices which would be formed on the basis of law. The state can set up a special prosecutor's office within the unified attorney system.

Article 119: The attorney-general and his deputies are appointed by the president for a six-year period. The attorney-general is responsible to and bound to report on his activities to the president.

Amended draft version:

The attorney-general and deputy attorney-generals are appointed by the president in accordance with the law. The attorney-general is responsible to and bound to report to the president.

Article 120: Supervision over the implementation and uniform observance of the law by the ministers and other central bodies of state administration, executive committees of local councils, state, mixed and private institutions, departments, political parties and social organizations, officials in charge and citizens shall be undertaken by the attorney-general and attornies subordinate to him.

Amended draft version:

Article 120: Supervision over the implementation and uniform observance of the law by (officials) in charge of the ministries, departments, state, mixed and private institutions, cooperatives, political parties and social organizations and citizens is undertaken by the attorney-general and attorneys subordinate to him.

Article 123: The Council of the Constitution has the following authority:
(1) Assessing the conformity of laws, legislative decrees and the international treaties with the Constitution.
(2) Giving the president legal and judicial advice about the problems emanating from the constitution.

Amended draft version:

Article 123: The Council of the Constitution has the following rights:
(1) Assessing the conformity of laws, legislatve decrees and international treaties with the Constitution.
(2) Giving the president legal advice about problems emanating from the Constitution.

Article 125: The Council of the Constitution is made up of a chairman and eight members who are appointed by the president for six years.

Amended draft version:

Article 125: The Council of the Constitution is made up of a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and eight members who are appointed by the president.

Article 128: From the local administration viewpoint, the Republic of Afghanistan is divided into provinces, major-districts, sub-districts, villages, cities and wards. The organs of state power in the administrative units are the lolcal councils. The executive bodies of the local councils are the executive committees, which are executive committes elected by the local councils of people's representatives. The executive committee of the local councils are led respectively by governors of provinces, heads of divisions, district commissioners, sub-district administrators, maleks (chieftains), mayors and heads of wards.

Amended draft version:

Article 128: The administration of the Republic of Afghanistan is based on the principle of centralism and central and regional administrative units are organized in accordance with the law. From the local administration viewpoint, the Republic of Afghanistan is divided into provinces, districts, cities, and ward administrative units. The aforementioned units are led respectively by governors, district administrators, mayors and heads of wards. In every province, provincial councils and district councils are formed in accordance with the law. Provincial councils and district councils, from among their members, elect one each as chairman and secretary. The term of office of a provincial council and district council is three years.

Article 129: The local organs of state power and administration shall deal with all matters relating to local government, keeping in view the public interests of the country. All institutions, organizations and related local departments are dutybound to implement the decisions of the local councils and their executive committees.

Amended draft version:

Article 129: Provincial councils and district councils, in line with the law, are taking part in maintaining the development goals in the region and advise the administration on the improvement and development of related matters. Members of the provincial councils and of district councils are paid approximately for their presence.

Article 130: The term of office of local councils is three years.

Amended draft version:

Article 130: In order to administer cities and wards, city and ward meetings shall be held in accordance with the law. Members of meetings of cities and wards are appropriately paid for their presence.

Article 131: The structure, duties, powers, method of elections and operating procedures of the local councils are regulated by law.

Amended draft version:

Article 131: Matters related to central and regional administration, the stability and security of occupation and other matters relating to staff are regulated by law.

Article 136: The Republic of Afghanistan supports the struggle of the people and nations for peace, national independence, democracy, social progress, and the right of nations to self-determination, and fights against colonialism, imperialism, Zionism, racism, apartheid and fascism.

Amended draft version:

Article 136: The Republic of Afghanistan supports the struggles of the peoples and nations for peace, national independence, democracy, social progress and the right of nations to self-determination and fights against colonialism, neo-colonialism, Zionism, racism, apartheid, and fascism.

Article 142: Salaries of the president, vice-presidents, members of the National Assembly, prime minister, members of the government, chief justice, judges of the Supreme Court, members of the Council of the Constitution, attorney-general, and his assistants are regulated in accordance with the law.

Amended draft version:

Article 142: Salaries of the president, vice-presidents, members of the National Assembly, prime minister, members of the government, chief justice, judges and members of the Supreme Court, chairman of the Council of the Constitution, vice-chairman and secretary, attorney-general and his assistants are regulated in accordance with the law.

Article 143: Whenever the preservation of independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and internal security become impossible through the channels provided for in this Constitution due to war, danger of war, disturbances or similar conditions, a state of emergency may be declared by the president. Should a state of emergency continue for more than three months, the consent of the Loya Jirga is imperative for its extension.

Amended draft version:

Article 143: Whenever the preservation of independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and internal security become impossible through the channels provided for in this Constitution due to war, danger of war, disturbances or similar conditions, a state of emergency may be declared by the president in consultation with the chairmen of both houses of the National Assembly, prime minister, supreme justice and the chairman of the Council of the Constitution. Should a state of emergency continue more than three months, the consent of the Loya Jirga is imperative for its extension.

Article 146: With the adoption of this Constitution and the election of the president, the presidium of the Revolutionary Council is rendered defunct. The Revolutionary Council will continue to discharge its duties in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 6 of the Constitution until the National Assembly is set up. The National Assembly is to be set up within six months from the adoption of the Constitution. The Council of Ministers continues to discharge its duties in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 7 of the Constitution until the formation of the new government, which will obtain a vote of confidence from the National Assembly in accordance with the provision of the Constitution. The president, within six months from the adoption of the Constitution, shall reorganize the judiciary and public prosecution bodies, in a unified system in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, and shall establish the Council of the Constitution.

Amended draft version:

Article 146: The investigation of allegations and the method of trial of the president, vice-presidents, members of administrative boards of both houses of the National Assembly, prime minister, deputy-prime ministers, members of the council of ministers, attorney-general, attorney-general assistants and the chairman of the Council of the Constitution, are regulated by a separate law.

Article 147: The first president shall be elected by the Loya Jirga which adopts this Constitution.

Amended draft version:

Article 147: Those subjects of the Republic of Afghanistan who himself or his spouse are not born of Afghan parents, cannot by appointed as president, vice-president, prime minister, deputy prime minister, minister, chief justice, attorney general, officer of the Armed Forces or diplomatic staff.

Work on Constitutional Amendments Continues

LD2305151590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 May 90

[Text] The extraordinary session of the commission in charge of drafting amendments to the constitution was held this afternoon under the chairmanship of 'Abdul Rahim Hatif, vice president and chairman of this commission.

The correspondent of BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reported that at this session discussions were held on the suggestions submitted by the people to this commission.

It was unanimously decided at this session that the following sentences should be dropped from Articles 108 and 117 of the draft constitution:

In a single judicial system the government can set up special courts.

In a single saranwali [attorney] system the government can set up a special attorney office.

At this session a detailed discussion was held on other articles of the constitution. The commission in charge of drafting amendments to the constitution will continue its work.

Wolasi Jirga Discusses Government-Designate

LD2505040390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 May 90

[Excerpt] The first session of the Wolasi Jirga [House of Representatives] of the Meli Shura [National Assembly] of the Republic of Afghanistan opened today in the hall of the Meli Shura under the chairmanship of Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi, chairman of the Wolasi Jirga, in order to discuss and express its views on the policy and structure of government of esteemed prime minister-designate Khaliqyar.

At the begining of the session, the proceedings of which were broadcast live by Radio Afghanistan, the agenda of the session—a discussion of foreign and domestic policy and the structure of the government-designate—was approved unanimously.

Then the process of expressing views and discussing the policy of the government-designate by the representatives of Wolasi Jirga began in a completely free climate and in critical form. [passage omitted]

Explosives Destined for Kabul Discovered

LD1805222190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 May 90

[Text] Ministry of State Security organs carried out a mopping-up operation today in the surroundings of Paghman district to prevent terrorist actions by extremists. As result of this operation 150 Mesael type surface-to-surface missiles and over 100 shells of artillery and rocket launcher, were seized.

According to another report the officials of the anti-crime department, first security ward, Sarandoy command, today prevented a tragic mishap in Kabul city by discovering 17 kilograms of trotyl type explosives. These explosives were cleverly hidden in a tanker by the extremists and were being transported to Kabul city to cause an explosion in a crowded region. By its timely discovery of these explosives another conspiracy by the extremists was foiled.

More Missiles Fired at Kabul; Others Seized

LD2205174290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 May 90

[Text] Extremists fired 12 surface-to-surface missiles at Kabul today. One of our compatriots was injured. BAKHTAR's military section reports that these rockets, fired from the north-east, also caused material losses.

Thirty-four SAKR-20 [as received] type surface-to-surface missiles, deployed in Paghman District and ready for launching at Kabul's suburbs, were recently discovered and seized. BAKHTAR reports that these rockets, together with 27 artillery shells were seized as a result of mopping up operations carried out by the organs of the Ministry of State Security.

The anticrime section of Kabul's Security Ward 5, Sarandoy Command, discovered and seized today six surface-to-surface missiles in Charasyab District. The BAKHTAR military section reported that these missiles, deployed in this region for launching at Kabul, were discovered and moved away with the cooperation of local people.

Kabul Residential Areas Attacked With Rockets

LD2305152690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 23 May 90

[Text] Extremists today fired 26 American [as heard] rockets at the residential areas, as a result of which three residents of the city of Kabul were martyred and nine others were injured. The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reports: The injured were quickly taken to a hospital and were taken under intensive care. Today's rockets were SAKR and cluster-type, which were fired from the west, north, and north-east, and landed in Wards 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10 residential areas where they caused material losses as well. One of the rockets landed next to the workers' fund mosque where it caused damage.

Three Killed in Continuing Rebel Rocket Attack

BK2405153890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1451 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Kabul, May 24 (AFP)— At least three people died and 11 were wounded when the Afghan resistance Thursday [24 May] kept up rocket attacks on the capital Kabul, officials here said. They said five rockets, four of them of the cluster type, hit different parts of the city early Thursday.

The latest attack came after mujahidin guerrillas fired 26 rockets into the city Wednesday, stepping up their attacks ahead of the loya jirgah, or grand national assembly, President Najibullah has called to adopt a new constitution. The government has yet to announce dates for the jirgah, but officials say it will be held in a few days.

[Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto at 1530 GMT on 24 May reports the following: "Extremists, by firing eight U.S.-made [as heard] surface-to-surface missiles on the residential regions, have today martyred three Muslim and religious citizens and have injured another 15 people.

[The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section reported these missiles, which were from cluster and SAKR types, were fired primarily from the northeast and western directions of Kabul, and hit the 3d, 4th, 9th, and 10th wards of Kabul city.

[The mines spread from the cluster type missiles were collected and neutralized by the security forces. These missiles also caused material losses."]

Mujahidin Run 'Successful Operations' in Qandahar

BK2405152290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] According to a report, the mujahidin in Afghanistan have carried out some more successful operations against the Kabul regime forces in Qandahar Province. Reports say that they damaged seven tanks during attacks on security posts near the Qandahar airport and killed or injured a number of soldiers.

The mujahidin killed 20 soldiers and hit two armored vehicles during an attack on a supply convoy of the Kabul regime on [name indistinct]-Qandahar Road. They also seized a large quantity of weapons during the attack.

Rebels Attack Regime Convoy, Cause Heavy Losses

BK2505112090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] In Afghanistan, a military convoy of the Kabul regime heading toward Baghlan Province is reported to have come under heavy attack by the Afghan mujahidin. A large number of Kabul troops are reported to have been killed or wounded and 150 vehicles were set ablaze during the attack.

Bangladesh

Ershad Threatens To Resign To Get Railway Line

BK2405092090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0754 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Dhaka, May 24 (AFP)—Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad threatened to resign unless a railway line were included across the strategic Jamuna multi-purpose bridge (JMB), the weekly DIALOGUE reported. The weekly, in its issue to be published Friday [25 May], said the World Bank took the decision to include the railway "only after Ershad told Washington that he would resign rather than see the JMB without the versatility it need to provide rail communication."

On May 16, the co-financiers of the project ended their meeting in Washington agreeing on the final configuration of the bridge, and also pledged several million dollars towards the project, reports earlier said. The project's financiers include the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the International Development Authority, the United Nations Development Program, Japan and Britain.

The bridge over the Jamuna River will link the agricultural areas in the north west of the country with the commercial centre of Dhaka as well as the major south-eastern port city of Chittagong. The bridge is set to be 4,800 meters (5,280 yards) long, with an estimated cost of about 450 million dollars.

Pakistan's Army Head Calls on Military Chiefs

BK2305155290 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 May 90

[Text] The chief of staff of the Pakistan Army, General Mirza Aslam Beg, now on a goodwill visit to Bangladesh called on the chiefs of three services in Dhaka today. They discussed matters of mutual interest.

General Beg also placed a floral wreath at Shikha Anirban [Eternal Flame] in Dhaka cantonment and visited the Comilla cantonment.

Briefs Ershad on Kashmir Issue

BK2405163690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1611 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Dhaka, May 24 (AFP)—General Mirza Aslam Beg, the first Pakistani Army chief to visit Bangladesh since its 1971 secession from Pakistan, held talks Thursday [24 May] with President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, the official BSS [BANGLADESH NEWS AGENCY] News Agency said. The agency, in a brief dispatch, said Gen. Beg paid a courtesy call on Mr. Ershad at his secretariat office near the Dhaka cantonment. Senior defence officials from the two sides were present during the talks, BSS, but gave no other details. [sentence as received]

Sources here said Gen. Beg discussed the Kashmir issue with Mr. Ershad, adding that "Bangladesh is in a very precarious situation on the issue." Dhaka has to handle this with "extreme caution," the sources said, without elaborating.

Gen. Beg, accompanied by his wife and a five-member delegation, arrived here Tuesday on a one-week goodwill visit. An earlier trip set for March was postponed for undisclosed reasons.

On Wednesday [23 May], Gen. Beg had separate talks with chiefs of the Bangladesh Army, Navy and Air Force, the Defence Ministry said. He also placed wreaths at a martyrs' memorial at Dhaka cantonment. The memorial is dedicated to hundreds of unknown soldiers killed during the nine-month war of independence against Pakistan fought by Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan. The two countries now exchange military personnel for different types of training, the sources said.

Bangladesh has officially called for a peaceful and negotiated settlement to the Kashmir issue for the sake of stability in the South Asian region.

Newspaper Urges Compromise Formula on Kashmir

BK2305120390 Dhaka THE BANGLADES OBSERVER in English 17 May 90 p 5

[Editorial: "Peaceful Co-existence in Subcontinent"]

[Text] Amid charges and counter-charges, charges and denials by one country or the other plus the clashes between Indian Security Forces and the agitating Kashmiris a bilateral Indo-Pak situation is fast taking on symptoms that may plunge them into yet another armed conflict. Rumour and gossip and motivated media activity might also, as it seems to have, start operating to heighten the tensions across the borders and thus make edgier the relations between India and Pakistan. Intermittent firing in the Punch sector points to things getting worse by the day.

Much of these was however assumed to have receded with both Pakistani and Indian leadership explicitly declaring that they did not want war. Diplomatic activity since stepped up by both sides in a bid to take the issue to the international audience is quite in place. This should help more to deescalate the tension making the risk of a war increasingly diminish.

But much of these while, hopefully, holding for sometime, more by wary leadership effort on either side, is likely to break down should some fundamental questions be left unanswered for long, and that by Indian and Pakistani leaderships agreeing to act jointly.

The most urgent of these seems the one question around which the most explosive part of the present crisis seems to revolve: to find out how far the uprising in the state is indigenous, or whether Pakistan has a hand in it which Pakistan emphatically denies. This could be done through an efficient, agreed mechanism, among other feasible ones, say, a team of journalists of both countries agreed to by both governments or a third neutral country. That in fact is the way, analysts of the Kashmir dispute outside both the countries (maybe some insiders as well), have starting looking at it and consider this to be the most sensible of marginalising the causes for violence by one side (Kashmiris) and a harsher response by the other, which is what is happening now.

To be sure, it will be a very much different perspective in which to consider Kashmir once the issue is found, through investigation, to be one involving chiefly the Kashmiris. To go by some objective account given by some prestigious international journal (The Economist) much of the story of Pakistan being involved looks overblown, the reporter having seen very few signs at field to support it. Once this is established, the course of a political solution this might reasonably open up, would demand of the Indian leadership to do some hard thinking, perhaps less along the traditional possessive lines than uptodate contemporary ones of which vibration is felt across much of the world.

The rethinking warranted by the current drift of things in Kashmir could perhaps be fruitfully attempted more in the light of post-partition history and in line with Mr. Nehru's "reiterated promise on Nov. 21/1947 in Indian parliament that the people of Kashmir would be given the chance to decide their future under the supervision of an impartial tribunal such as the United Nations Organisation", quoted by V.P. Menon in his book Integration of the Indian States. A possible compromise formula enshrining the spirit of such past history and the settlement of Indo-Pak disputes through peaceful means proviso of the Simla Agreement may point a way out.

While such a course of action, past the grounds for direct confrontation between Pakistan and India, could help pave the way for a possible political solution it could, given serious long-term thoughts, also bring the two countries closer, and be as well a strong new-found reason for both not to escalate the mutual arms buildup contest at the cost of their poor millions. The fact is over the trouble that has broken out in Kashmir in this late turbulent 1980s armed confrontation or the resurrected bitterness between India and Pakistan, in the opinion of right-thinking Indians and outsiders, is immensely avoidable, besides blocking the way to durable peaceful coexistence in this subcontinent.

India

Gujral Regrets No Pakistan Response on Talks

BK2405110890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Islamabad has not responded to the New Delhi proposals for holding meetings of the four subcommissions of the India-Pakistan joint commission.

The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, told the Lok Sabha today that the government proposed dates for the subcommissions' meetings in March and again in May this year. He regretted that there has been no response so far from Pakistan. He said while expressing its readiness to hold talks with India to de-escalate the situation, Pakistan is continuing with its support to subversion and terrorism against India. Mr. Gujral said Pakistan is also persisting with its attempt to internationalize the Kashmir issue in clear violation of the Simla agreement.

In a written reply, the external affairs minister told members that the government has conveyed our serious concern to Pakistan over its involvement with terrorism directed against India. We have also expressed serious concern over terrorists taking shelter in Pakistan and Pak-occupied Kashmir. He regretted that Pakistan has not taken note of our concern.

Further Reportage on Controversy Over Kashmir

Singh Responsible for 'Hell'

BK2405165290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1541 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] New Delhi, May 24 (AFP)—Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's party and one of it close allies Thursday accused the coalition government for mishandling Kashmir where a Muslim militant-campaign has gained fresh momentum. The opposition Congress (I) Party attacked Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's National Front administration in Parliament's lower house, accusing his government of mismanaging the affairs in the troubled northern state. The Congress (I) attack, led by one of its leaders, Santosh Mohan Dev, demanded the immediate recall of federally-appointed Kashmir State Governor Jag Mohan and said the official had "unleashed a reign of terror".

"A reign of terror and repression has been unleashed in the (Kashmir) Valley turning the once paradise into a virtual hell," Mr. Dev said amid bedlam in the house. He said members from the left and the Janata Dal (people's group), two main components of the National Front alliance, were demanding the withdrawal of Mr. Jag Mohan because he had turned into a "symbol of repression". National Front government policies were responsible for the present situation in Kashmir, Mr. Dev charged, adding that the they were further alienating Kashmiri Muslims from the rest of India.

The debate was sparked by a discussion on Monday's [21 May] assassination of Kashmir high priest, Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq, by unknown gunmen who posing as journalists entered his fortress-like house in Srinagar, the state's summer capital, and shot him. Congress (I) MPs said the assassination and the subsequent firing on Muslim mourners carrying the mirwaiz's coffin were a "slur on the Kashmir administration" adding that Mr. Jag Mohan should be recalled to save Kashmir.

The leader of the regional opposition Kashmiri National Conference Party, Saifuddin Soz, demanded a high-powered investigation by a Supreme Court judge into the massacre by security troopers in the valley. "Mr. V.P. Singh should apologise to the people of Kashmir for the action of the governor who should be removed immediately," Mr. Soz said, and lambasted the government for not giving armed guards to the mirwaiz prior to his slaying.

More than 80 mourners died and some 300 more were wounded the same day the mirwaiz, or high priest, was killed in the valley where thousands have been jailed for sympathising with a militant-led Muslims campaign against Indian rule. The death toll from violence linked to the secessionist movement in Kashmir has now reached the 600 mark this year.

Meanwhile, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman Thursday [24 May] said India expressed dismay at a statement issued by the United States Wednesday [23 May] calling for the use of non-lethal crowd control methods in handling protesters in the northern state. "The U.S. State Department spokesman's statement is apparantly based on an incorrect assessment of the actual facts on the ground," the spokesman said, referring to the U.S. statement which claimed the handling of situation by Indian troopers had had a "negative effect" in Kashmir.

SRV Official Comments

BK2505034390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] Vietnam has said that Kashmir is an integral part of India and criticized the role of Pakistan in the secessionist disturbances in the valley. The president of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV], Mr. Vo Chi Cong, said this while talking to newsmen during his stopover at the Calcutta airport yesterday en route to Moscow from Hanoi.

U.S. Statement 'One-Sided'

BK2505032090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] India has expressed dismay at the one-sided remarks of the U.S. State Department spokesman on the incidents in Srinagar, following the murder of Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq.

An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi yesterday that the U.S. statement was apparently based on an incorrect assessment of the actual facts on the ground. He said there was no mention of the incessant and continuing violation of the human rights of the victims of militant violence, of which Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq was the most recent and unfortunate example.

Governor Jag Mohan Resigns

BK2505091590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0912 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] New Delhi, May 25 (AFP)—Governor Jag Mohan of Kashmir has resigned his post in the wake of criticism of Monday's police massacre of Muslim mourners, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Friday [25 May] quoting highly placed sources. There was no immediate official confirmation of the report.

Mr. Jag Mohan had flown here from Kashmir overnight for consultations with Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh and Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

PTI said Mr. Girish Saxena, a security advisor to Mr. V.P. Singh, was likely to replace Mr. Jag Mohan, who has been blamed for the police massacre in Kashmir on Monday of up to 100 Kashmiri Muslims mourning the death of slain religious leader Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq. Mr. Saxena would probably fly to Kashmir later in the day, the agency said.

Installation of Priest Postponed

BK2505095490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0938 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] New Delhi, May 25 (AFP)—The installation of the 16-year-old son of slain Moslem religious leader Maulvi Farooq as the new high priest of Kashmir has been postponed indefinitely, the Awami Action Committee (AAC) announced Friday. The announcement in Srinagar, summer capital of northern Jammu and Kashmir state and hub of a Moslem militant-led separatist campaign, said Omar Farooq would be installed as mirwaiz only when the curfew could be lifted throughout Kashmir Valley.

The AAC, the Kashmiri political party led by the former mirwaiz, had said Thursday that the installation of Omar Farooq, who became the youngest man ever to be appointed mirwaiz on Tuesday [22 May], and fourth-day mourning prayers for his slain father would be held Friday only if the curfew was lifted valley wide. However authorities lifted curfew in only four areas of the city for seven hours on Friday. Reports from the city said shops remained closed and transport stayed off the streets in an apparent sign of mourning.

Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq, who was named mirwaiz-apparent at the age of 18 in 1962 but was not installed in the hereditary position until 1969, was shot dead in a hail of bullets in his Srinagar home Monday by unknown gunmen. He was an advocate of self-determination for Kashmir who had however spoken out against extreme forms of violence including kidnappings by militants to attain their ends.

Shortly after the assassination police opened fire when thousands of mourning Moslems took to the streets of the city carrying his body in defiance of curfew. The shooting left up to 100 dead and 300 injured by unofficial count.

Gujral on 'Racist', 'Illegal' Fiji Regime

BK2405111090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] India today reiterated its firm resolve to continue its support to the democratic movement in Fiji.

Making a statement in the Lok Sabha today, the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, said the illegal regime of Fiji with its racist policies is disturbed by the strength of the multiracial democratic movement and our support to it. He said this is the motivation behind its insistence on the closure of our mission in Suva.

Addresses Embassy Closure

BK2405162690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] India has reiterated its firm resolve to continue its support for the democratic movement in Fiji. It urged the world community to raise its voice against the abhorrent policy of racial discrimination pursued by the illegal regime.

Making a statement in both houses of parliament today on the closure of India's diplomatic mission in Fiji, the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, said the illegal regime's action indicates that it is disturbed by the strength of the multiracial democratic movement and our support to it. He rejected the allegations of the Fiji authorities that the Indian Embassy had been interfering in their internal affairs. He described the allegations as totally false and malicious. Mr. Gujral said the Indian Embassy had been projecting our policies faithfully and refrained scrupulously from interfering in purely domestic matters.

Referring to the closure of the Indian mission, Mr. Gujral said that the government is in touch with some friendly countries to look after the interest of the majority ethnic Indian community in the South Pacific island nation.

Condemning the policies of the illegal Fijian Government, the minister said the regime there hopes to stay in power through a divide-and-rule policy adopted by undemocratic rulers.

In the Rajya Sabha, members seeking clarifications wanted to know the steps taken by the government to mobilize world opinion in support of the democratic movement in Fiji. They alleged failure of intelligence agencies to alert the government over the developments. Members wanted the issue to be raised at various international forums to explain India's stand. The minister will give his reply tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the Indian Embassy in the Fijian capital, Suva, was shut down today. Before closing, the embassy's charge d'affaires, Mr. V.B. Soni, said Fiji's accusation of the Indian Embassy's interference in its internal affairs was blatantly ridiculous.

The leader of Fiji's opposition party coalition, Mrs. Adi Kuini Bavadra, who is on a visit to Australia, said in Canberra today that her country's closure of the Indian Embassy was a veiled threat to the opposition and to the Fiji Indian leaders.

Spokesman Announces Nepalese Premier To Visit

BK2505003990 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] The prime minister of Nepal, Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, will be arriving in New Delhi on the 8th of next month on a three-day visit to India. The visit is at the invitation of the prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh. This was announced by an official spokesman in New Delhi today. He told newsmen that the Nepalese prime minister will be accorded a warm and cordial welcome and is scheduled to discuss bilateral and regional issues with the Indian leaders. The detailed agenda is being worked out.

Iran

Mottaki Speaks on Response to Iraqi Letter

LD2405224990 Tehran IRNA in English 1955 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA—The Islamic Republic in a show of goodwill has given a positive response to the Iraqi Government's letter concerning the continuation of negotiations between the two countries, said a senior Foreign Ministry official Thursday [24 May]. "We hope the Iraqi Government has found a political decision for a durable peace between the two countries," Manuchehr Mottaki, deputy foreign minister for international affairs told IRNA.

Mottaki, who also heads the Committee on Prisoners of War, pointed out "the Islamic Republic always welcomes any efforts made in the context of Resolution 598 and any assistance rendered to the U.N. secretary-general in this respect."

The Iraqi regime was forced to send its letter under certain circumstances, Mottaki said. "It has become clear since sometime ago that this regime no longer enjoys the international backing it used to enjoy before, because of various problems including foreign debts, and therefore it has sent the letter retracting its steps," he said.

However, Mottaki said the Iraqi regime has only made available the names of 20,000 Iranian POW's but has not permitted the rest to be identified, something which is in contrast with the Geneva conventions on the rights of POW's.

He reiterated "the Islamic Republic of Iran while emphasizing the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598 has positively responded to the letter to show once again its good intention."

Reply To Show 'Goodwill'

NC2505101690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] In order to show its goodwill, the Islamic Republic of Iran has sent a reply to the letter from the Iraqi Government. While announcing this, Mr Mottaki, the deputy foreign minister for international affairs, who is visiting Tabriz, said: As the Iraqi regime took the step of writing this letter due to special circumstances, in order to affirm its goodwill, the Islamic Republic of Iran also welcomes all kinds of efforts which would assist the UN secretary general within the framework of the Security Council's Resolution 598.

He expressed the hope that the Iraqi regime had reached a political decision for attaining durable peace. By stressing the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to exchange the ailing and wounded Iranian and Iraqi POW's, he referred to the POWs and missing persons who have not yet been identified to the International Red Cross Committee [IRCC] and said: As it has reiterated on various occasions, and as it declared in its talks with the IRCC delegation recently, the Islamic Republic of Iran, agrees about releasing all ailing and wounded POWs. We hope that with the acceptance of the IRCC proposals by Iraq, all the ailing and wounded POW's will be speedily exchanged.

He added: Unfortunately, the Iraqi regime has until now refrained from implementing the most basic rights of the POW's to have their names registered and be identified, in contravention of the Geneva Convention and all international norms.

The Central News Unit, Tabriz.

Paper Comments on Iraq's 'Deteriorating' Position

NC2405143890 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 8 May 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Iraq's Unsatisfactory Position"]

[Text] It can be deduced from remarks made by Vladimir Petrovskiy, Soviet first deputy foreign minister for international affairs, in Tehran regarding Resolution 598 that Moscow has agreed to play an active role in expediting the trend of peace talks.

It appears that Petrovskiy's visit is to affirm Moscow's role of mediator between Tehran and Baghdad, which it accepted prior to the surfacing of unrest in the Soviet republics.

Petrovskiy's visit to Tehran is taking place at a time when Iraq's letter has been assessed in Iran's National Security Council and in the Political Affairs Committee of the Majles. Even though the contents of the Iraqi letter have not been divulged, it can be conjectured that the peace talks are its main subject.

At present, Iraq's position is deteriorating on the international level, following its repeated obstructionism in relation to the course of the peace talks and the implementation of Resolution 598. Baghdad is in a situation tantamount to complete confrontation with the United Nations and the Security Council, the international authority which issued Resolution 598, and for this reason Iraq is in a difficult and unsatisfactory position.

Iraq's obstructionism has in fact endangered the international credibility of the United Nations and Security Council. Naturally the Soviet Union, as one of the main members of the Security Council, is not inclined to permit Iraq's policy of procrastination to assume more extensive proportions and to place a question mark over the international reputation of the council. In Tehran, Petrovskiy interpreted Iraq's obstructionist policy regarding Resolution 598 as a kind of political perplexity and said: Iraq's attitude indicates that it has not yet made a political decision regarding the implementation of Resolution 598 or the attainment of peace.

The propounding of such an opinion on the part of the Soviet Union in the midst of all the Security Council members will prevent the Iraqi regime from directly confronting the United Nations and the Security Council and will rescue the world body's image from the danger to its credibility.

Iran's clear stance, on the other hand, with regard to the United Nations and Security Council, and its effective cooperation and goodwill toward all the secretary general's efforts has created positive parameters [preceding word in English] on the international level for the Islamic Republic of Iran. These should be used by the Security Council to motivate Iraq to accept and sign a commitment regarding the immutable 1975 [Algiers] accord and Resolution 598.

If Iraq's letter includes the acceptance of the two basic principles, that is, the Algiers accord and Security Council Resolution 598, Moscow's mediation, under the auspices of the secretary general, will prove effective in the continuation of the peace talks.

Paper Views Iraq's Motives in Sending Letter

NC2305063290 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 12 May 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Is Iraq Truly After Peace?"]

[Text] Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz may take a trip to New York to hold talks with the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. This visit is taking place at a time when the dead end in negotiations over the implementation of peace Resolution 598 still persists.

Iran's National Security Council meanwhile announced last week in a brief press release its receipt of a special letter from the Iraqi government concerning peace talks between the two countries. The Islamic Republic officials have not yet disclosed a clear cut explanation on their response to the letter. It can, however, be gleaned that Iraq wishes to hold direct talks with Iran, but out of the framework provided by the U.N. sponsored peace resolution, at the presidential level.

The Iraqi move could be positive but it might be anachronistic at this stage when the resolution is still pending. Well-thought-out visits and talks will not only fail to solve problems but may actually add to the complexity of the existing matters if this fact is ignored.

If the intention behind such moves is to attain a lasting peace, the first requirement would have to be goodwill on the part of both countries. Suspicion can always threaten a peace process let alone a brittle ceasefire.

Meanwhile the Iranian President Rafsanjani too has expressed some anxiety saying he "is not still sure of the other side's good intention." Although, however, he has not rejected sincere motives behind Iraqi correspondence with Iran altogether, saying, "some signs in this regard have been seen."

Therefore if Iraq is sincere in its peace gestures it should be assured of Iran's full cooperation as the Islamic Republic time and again has proven its seriousness to this end.

Now what happens if Iraq fails practically to show such goodwill? "Naturally this failure will enhance the suspicion in Iran that the Iraqi objective in sending such letters to Tehran may be to undermine Resolution 598.

Meanwhile Tariq 'Aziz's New York tour if it takes place may help to clarify Iraqi intentions behind the letter it has sent to Iran. Will the Baghdad foreign minister, this time too, repeat his past performances of totally fruitless visits and talks with the U.N. secretary general? It is hoped that, as may be expected from the positive content of the Iraqi letter to Iran, this will not be the case this time.

Paper Decries State Department Report on Terrorism

LD2405095290 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 16 May 90 pp 2, 8

[Editorial by M. Reza'i: "Bad Intentions of the Americans in the Hostage Issue"]

[Text] Once again the Islamic Republic of Iran has been named as a supporter of terrorism in a report prepared by the U.S. State Department for that country's Congress. It seems that the main reason why such an accusation has been made against Iran is the issue of the hostages in Lebanon. This issue first showed its ugly face with the unfortunate kidnapping of three Iranian diplomats and an Iranian journalist in Beirut by forces linked to Israel and ultimately to the United States. So why is it that a country which itself was the first to fall victim to hostage-taking and tasted its bitter taste is now named as a supporter of such acts? This is a question to which the State Department has to find an answer.

All in all, in today's topsy-turvy world it is not only the hot weapons of war which are used to gain political and economic ground by the industrialized Western bloc, but it seems that the complex panoply of weapons has also come to include words.

"Terrorism," "human rights," and "democracy" are the best examples to be named in this regard. In these cases such words lose all their value and become like cold tools in the hands of the political and propaganda masters of the bullying powers, used to secure their colonalistic interests.

A prime example is that just cited which has become more obvious in the case of the hostages in Lebanon. Lebanon's geopolitical position and the political and social conditions that exist in that country have always caused the Americans to intervene in the affairs of that nation in order to safeguard their interests in the Middle East and undoubteldy to ensure that no harm comes to the 53d state—Israel. Finally, following this same trend they arranged the kidnapping of four Iranian citizens by their own mercenaries.

Since "self defense" is a "natural right," which has been recognized officially, it is normal for the active Muslim groups in Lebanon to defend the Muslims' rights and take retaliatory measures in defense of their brothers-in-religion. It is wortyh stressing that right from the start, the groups recognized this as an inhuman act and stressed the "defense' nature of their action. They were always seeking to end the issue through full cooperation between the various groups involved. This is why through the years we have witnessed the release of Western hostages from Beirut, even though there has been no response from the opposing sides. The release of two American hostages, Robert Polhill, and Frank Herbert Reid, during the past 2 weeks by the Muslim groups, which was accomplished with Iranian insistance and mediation, was a step to resolving this inhuman issue. Now it is up to the Ameriacns to show the world their sincerity and determination to end the problem. In this regard it is worth noting the remarks made by Shaykh Mohammad Khatun, one of the top Hizballah officials in southern Lebanon. He said: The key to ending the hostage issue lies in the hands of the United States, Israel, and France. These countries taught killing and kidnapping to others. We are all hostages because we live under the control of world aggression. Bad deeds can only be followed by bad deeds.

Following the release of Polhill the Iranian foreign minister, who was visiting New York, mentioned the need for the United States to make an effort to free the hostages held by the Zionist regime and reiterated Iran's determination to take steps along this humane line. But the reply that James Baker gave to this humane statement was: We will not engage in negotiations to make deals for the hostages. We believe that the American hostages must be released immediately and unconditionally, and such savage acts must end.

Meanwhile George Bush, speaking at a ceremony in front of the White House marking the fifth anniversary of American hostage Terry Anderson's capture, said: This is a subject that I think about every day of my life. We will continue to make efforts and I shall do everything I can, both in private and openly.

Apart from James Baker's statement, which makes George Bush's remarks seem cold, THE WASHINGTON POST—regarded as the White House's mouthpiece—wrote an article following Polhill's release showing the trickery of the American politicians. This newspaper wrote: The release of Polhill is not a cause for joy because it does not indicate a victory for the United States, nor does it indicate the defeat of the enemy. Instead, what has become obvious to the world is the vulnerability of the United States. Even if all the hostages are released, the Bush Administration must never think of coming to terms with Iran. The present Iran is a momento left by Ayatollah Khomeyni, and his followers still rule that country. Indifference will eventually result in the release of all the hostages. Any other action will be taken as nothing other than the United States' giving in.

Graham Fuller, former CIA expert and present member of the Middle East Research Center, took part in the ABC television program "Night Line" recently. Like THE WASHINGTON POST reporter, he went straight for "human rights" and "human liberty" and other lies popular with American politicians. He looked at the hostage issue in this way: With the war over, the Iranians are looking to improve their relations with the West with a view to reconstruction and to secure economic aid. So keeping the hostages any longer is not in Iran's interest.

Perhaps he has forgetten, or pretends to forget, that Iran itself was the first victim of hostage-taking in Lebanon. Four Iranian citizens have been held hostage in Lebanon for years now, denied their freedom. So what he calls "Iran's interests" in his remarks is irrelevant. Instead he should have talked about the "interests" of the Americans and the Zionists, who were the first to undertake such actions. In any case, as far as public opinion is concerned, the hostage issue in Lebanon is a good standard by which to judge American officials' respect for human rights and to find out which country really supports terrorism. Is it Iran which truly wants the hostage issue in Lebanon to end, or is it the United States, which does not want to take a step in that direction?

It is worth us mentioning this to the White House officials: The Islamic Republic of Iran and the heroic Iranian people have shown during the past 11 years that they will never be affected by propaganda wars launched by the United States. If you hear from the Iranian representative at the United Nations that "We will do everything we can to secure the release of the hostages," think of it only in terms of Iran's respect for human rights and nothing else. The issue of Salman Rushdie should be a good experience for the West.

U.S. Accused of 'Exploiting' Hostage Issue

PM2405152090 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 16 May 90 p 8

[Editorial: "The United States Is Taking Political Advantage of People's Suffering"]

[Text] It has been 2,920 days since four Iranians were kidnapped in Beirut by elements of the West, especially the United States. The Iranians were the first hostages and the first victims of the West's aggressive policies in Beirut. The families of the Iranian hostages have spent 2,920 sad days in worry, anxiety, and fear. But unbelievably, or rather, cruelly, the sorrow of the families of the Iranian hostages and the suffering of the people in captivity are covered up by the poisonous fumes of Western propaganda. Now, humane efforts are overshadowed by superpower pride. THE WASHINGTON TIMES newspaper has written: The Americans are angry that Iran wants something in return for the release of two American hostages. This proves the Third World's theory abut the United States.

This U.S. paper has said that the White House has rejected Iranian proposals that the next move for the release of the hostages should come from the Americans.

THE WASHINGTON TIMES wrote: The White House has always believed that the next move should come from Iran because there are still hostages there that must be released. Until the release of all the hostages, all future moves are up to Iran.

The U.S. position has come under criticism even from some Western sources. It matches exactly the analysis of Iran's president, mentioned in his recent speech on 5 May concerning the Americans' attitude. He said: These types of attitude show that the Americans do not want to see the hostages released or to solve the hostage issue. Rather, it shows that they want to exploit people's suffering to make political and colonial gains.

The United States, like a spoiled child—or, according to THE WASHINGTON TIMES, like a stubborn child—introduces the long-suffering people of Lebanon as kidnappers and stages propaganda against them, whereas the United States itself was the first effective element to encourage the taking of hostages in Lebanon. No less than 2,920 days or eight years ago, elements of the United States took four Iranians hostage. Whenever there is a conflicting item of news about them, their families are thrown into turmoil. Once in a while, when there is the opportunity for the Americans to make a move toward the release of the Iranian hostages and hundreds of Lebanese hostages, it becomes clear that the United States does not really want the hostage issue to be resolved. Not only it has not done the slightest thing toward their release, but its words remain full of pride and arrogance. The United States is exploiting people's suffering.

Papers Remark on 'Bitter' Week in Islamic World

LD2405123490 Tehran IRNA in English 1124 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA—The Islamic world witnessed bitter and regretful events during the past week, each leaving a deep scar on the Islamic community, said 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' Thursday.

In its weekly political analysis, the morning Persian daily cited the tragic events of the last week as: The massacre of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, the martyrdom of a prominent Kashmiri alim by the Indian forces and the subsequent gunning down of the Kashmiri people in a protest demonstration, requesting death penalty for four Kuwaiti Muslims by the Kuwaiti regime and also the Saudi refusal to accept Iranian hajj pilgrims.

"These are bitter and sad developments that the world of Islam is facing," it said.

It regretted "the Islamic world, in fact, is governed by such rulers who instead of serving Islam, are at the service of outsiders and do whatever is in their ability to root out Islam and quell Muslims."

The daily also lashed out at the rectionary Arab regimes who "instead of confronting Israel, adopt a policy of appeasement towards the Zionist enemy." For instance, it added, Husni Mubarak of Egypt has assured Israel that not only the Egyptian regime, but also that ruling Iraq is no threat to the Zionist state. "Of course, there is nothing surprising in this attitude, but restating it is a further sign of abjection for the Arab reactionaries," stressed the paper.

It, however, voiced conviction "Muslim nations will never give in to such indignation and with their glorious uprising which frightens the enemy the most, will get rid of such elements."

Another Iranian daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' also commented on the recent massacre of the Palestinians and said, "It comes as no surprise that the Jewish perpetrator of the initial attack has been declared to be deranged. May be so, but then it can also be argued that most Israelis are in varying states of mental disarray precisely because of how they have dealt with the Palestinians of the occupied territories over the past 23 years. Hate and injustice do unbalance the mind."

The English-language daily added "What is worth mentioning here is that the latest tensions in Palestine come in the midst of a flood of Western writing and media attention on the rising tide of anti-Semitism in Europe. This is certainly intended to overwhelm the emotions of Americans and Europeans, while silencing the protests in the Muslim world over the influx of Soviet Jews into Palestine."

It concluded that the only fuel to the Palestinians in the territories is "human dignity and survival: two factors proven to provide abundant creativity and amazing resistance."

Paper on Mohajerani's 'Disgraceful Proposal'

NC2405192690 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 3 May 90

["Weekly Political Analysis" column]

[Text] In the name of God, the Almighty, the Merciful.

This week started with a half-baked and unprincipled proposal concerning respect for the revolution and the nation, which made the martyr-nurturing people of Iran extremely sorrowful. But, with God's help, as the week ends the Iranian nation has gained more confidence that its principles, revolution, and national respect and pride have been preserved, and the future is brighter.

The disgraceful proposal for direct talks with America enraged the people this week and led to the expression of aversion by the entire nation, the mass media, intellectuals, the various strata of society, and the Majles deputies. This despicable proposal could have destroyed the deeprooted trust that the martyr-nurturing people have in their officials and in the entire system. This proposal could have created a gap between the people and the officials, and led the country to the brink of indifference toward the officials. But His Eminence

Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, with great wisdom and alertness stated the explicit stand of the Islamic Republic on this proposal. While repeating the clear policy of the system on criminal America, he made it clear that he opposes any kind of talks with America and that this is also the policy of the Islamic Republic.

Yesterday the atmosphere which reigned at the outset of the revolution was renewed. Yesterday the imam's Hoseyniyeh reminded us of Jamaran and of our dear imam. Yesterday the shout of God is great by the people and the presence of the leader once again reminded us of the thunderous enemy-breaking shouts at the outset of the revolution. The shouts of "Death to America" were repeated in the presence of the leader and the imam's beautiful words—"We will trample on America"—were once again remembered.

Yesterday Ayatollah Khamene'i instilled confidence and hope in the flaming hearts of the families of martyrs and the afflicted hearts of the disabled, and in the worried faces of the combatants of Islam and the forces of the revolution. And he assured them that the path of the revolution is the same stable path of the imam, that such concoctions by a person or persons have nothing to do with the system, the leadership, or the government, and that our approach to America will not change because of proposals and remarks by one person or another.

It is clear that the expression of opposition to the disgraceful proposal by those who are propounding the issue of direct talks with America does not have a personal aspect. "Respect for individuals" should be preserved. But at the same time, these individuals should also not violate "respect for principles" and "respect for society." They should not try to disrupt values, beliefs, and policies that have been established by the revolution and to describe those who do not agree with them as "rabble rousers."

We are now addressing the officials in charge of the mass media and the public information centers. Recent developments and the angry reaction by each and every member of this nation, by the scholars, and by the various strata of society clearly showed that society and the forces of the revolution will not tolerate any attempt that harms the face of the revolution and tramples on the revolution's principles. Experience has show that if "respect for principles" is violated or harmed, the people will not sit silent, but will resort to logical opposition. This is a manifestation of the nation's maturity and health and a manifestation that the revolution is alive. This is something that should be supported and everything done in order to preserve such a spirit.

Those whose stands during the past week have caused concern among the families of the martyrs and the combatants and among the forces of the revolution should look to the future and take pen in hand with more responsible thoughts. The pen that ignores aspirations, brings pain to the hearts of the families of the martyrs, and gives rise to thousands of questions in the minds of the forces of the revolution should not be used without consideration and cause displeasure to the owners of the revolution. At the same time, the press too should understand the psychology of our society and its revolutionary effervescence and not become the arena for a war of pens which do not represent the wants of our martyr-nurturing people and which do not reflect the hopes of our nation, which has suffered so many hardships during the past 11 years.

Despite all their bitterness, this week's incidents have been a valuable experience for all of us and we hope that everyone will have learned sufficiently from it.

'Text' of Khamene'i's Letter to Mohajerani

NC2505103390 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 3 May 90 p 1

["Text" of letter by Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani dated 2 May]

[Text] In the name of the Almighty.

Dear brother Mr. 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani:

I have heard that some people deduced that my remarks today intended to taunt and insult Your Excellency, and some may have wanted to or may want to use these remarks as a pretext to insult you. I announce that this is a wrong deduction. I have condemned a thought, and I did not intend to insult anyone. If I have unwillingly insulted you, I wish to apologize. I have known you for ten years as a sincere and pure person, and I am sure that your act was only aimed at displaying compassion and benevolence. You continue to be my good brother. But the ultimate point is that we will not take the advice that you set out in your article "Direct Talks." Peace be upon you.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i

[Dated] 2 May 1990

Khamene'i Addresses Hezbollahis 23 May

LD2405093290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 May 90

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i to a group of Hezbollahis at Khamene'i's headquarters in Tehran on 23 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] These days are sensitive days because of the world's intriguing and very precise attention toward us. Not that such a sensitivity has come about just in these days, such attention and intrigue have been present since the demise of his holiness the imam. We have constantly been under the strong and quizzing lens of various powers and organs. On the one hand, the world powers looking at us to see whether we were a fair game for them or not—and whether they could once again attach some hope to this nation and country. On the other hand, the world's oppressed people—and with this we do not just mean oppressed nations, sometimes governments too can be oppressed—who have been looking at us to see what we do and what stances we adopt. They themselves might not have enough courage, but they enjoy the courage of others. We have such governments right now, who are infatuated with bravery. Infatuation with the imam was for the same reason. You should not suppose that all those people who were infatuated with the imam were also his friends. No! Even his enemies were infatuated with him. When we say enemies, we do not mean emotional enemies, instead we mean political and doctrinal enemies; enemies on the scene of political power struggle. [passage omitted]

We must speak our mind. That is to say that the Iranian nation and revolution must say what it wants with firmness. It must talk about what it does, toward what direction it is going, and where does it seek to go? And this is indeed an important issue. Of course the nation has already said what it wants; we lack nothing as far as that topic is concerned. A while ago I said that if anyone wants to know what is taking place in Iran, he should look at the Jerusalem Day rally, or the demonstrations on 22 Bahman [anniversary of Islamic revolution, 11 February]. Now they should look at the anniversary of [the death of] the imam, so as to find out what is happening in Iran. [passage omitted]

Sensitivity toward world Muslims and Islamic feelings have increased every day. This constitutes another one of the dimensions of the great Islamic movement of the Iranian nation. When we hear that people have been shot dead in occupied Palestine—here the issue is not concerned with club and truncheon, the issue is about massacre. This means that pressure on the Zionist enemy within the occupied territories is greater than ever. When we feel that pressure on Muslims the world over has increased and today when we feel the return to religion in Marxist countries which have spend lifetimes being distanced from religion and alienated from God—then we find that in those countries, as well as in others, sensitivity toward Muslims is great. This is indeed strange. [passage omitted]

What is the reason for such sensitivity? Is it not because world powers all over the globe feel that Islam is being rejuvenated? Is it not because they see that Islamic identity has once again gained a new lease of life among Muslim societies? If they open fire with bullets on Muslim youths in the occupied territories, is this not because today the presence of Islam in those territories has reached significant proportions? Is it not because in Arab countries—be they neighbors of occupied Palestine, or others—Islamic movements, visions, and feelings have gained roots, and the true proponents of pure ideas and doctrines have joined the ranks of a combatant type of Islam? Without a doubt this is the truth. If we see that the organs, who are the so-called proponents of human rights, witness that tens of Muslims in Kashmir are being ruthlessly killed, and yet they remain silent, we should ask: Is this the norm in today's world? Human rights are worthy of respect, but not when they concern Muslims! This is the issue. We see that the United Nations and the Human Rights Commission, as well as other organs the world over who wait to see first whom the United States opposes and then impose pressure on it, remain totally silent in the face of crimes occuring in Palestine and Kashmir. [passage omitted]

This is the same world that 30 or 40 years after the overthrow of Hitler, started chasing those who were alleged to have killed or tortured some Jews. Perhaps what actually occurred was much less than what is being alleged.

Well, From all what I have said above, an illuminating fact emerges. I would be surprised if anyone fails to understand this truth today, as for me it is as clear as daylight. The truth is that the world's arrogant powers—and on the peak of the mountain of corruption, the United States, as well as its allies, in plundering weak nations and imposing pressures on human beings the world over, as well as its affiliates, and all those governments with no popular basis who need the United States for their stability, such as certain reactionary regimes, which unfortunately we have some of in our region—all these powers and regimes feel that this Islamic movement, that is to say what we witness in today's Islamic world, is the greatest danger for them. They have grasped this. They know that this issue is not like the Marxist and socialist doctrines. The proponents of Marxist ideology were forced to go into a great deal of trouble—such as trying to include elements of faith in that doctrine—to convert people to Marxism. Religion, on the other hand, is not like that, as it already exists in people's minds in a profound and resolute manner, all it needs is a direction, all it needs is some demystification, and some remainders about mistakes in interpretations. That is why they are frightened. They know that this is something that will inflict heavy damage on the type of corrupt domination which today the United States, its allies and cronies are engaged in. They have found out that the epicenter of such a dissemination and movement is Islamic Iran. They have felt this. And you, dear youth and students in particular, must know that today they are using all their might to defeat the Islamic republic. There is nothing that they will not use. Those who are familiar with the political stage, they are surprised and sometimes amused, about the U.S. bewilderment and confusion in its quest for ways to deliver blows against Iran.

The problem for global arrogance and its ugliest chapter, that is, the Government of the United States, is not only that it has lost its market in Iran or that it has lost Iran's resources—though, of course, this holds as well because money, investment, and material benefits amount to everything for world capitalism—but this is not the issue, this is part of the issue. The question is that arrogance can see—it can predict, it understands, and knows that if this movement—that is, the steadfast, faithful Islamic movement that replies on people's creed and emotion—progresses the way it has, the continuation of the arrogant power of the United States and its allies and lackeys will become difficult or even impossible. They understand this. They are justified in doing so since we do not hide this fact either. Of course, we do not, nor did we from the start, have any preplanned or preformulated, direct or indirect role in shaping and setting in motion the Islamic movement in the world. The role belongs to Islam; that is, just as the Iranian people have been able to raise the banner of Islam—the Islam of life and living, the Islam that resists and not the Islam that surrenders to the enemies of God and not the Islam of taghut [evil, false; reference to the shah's regime], but pure Mohammadan Islam [shouts of support], and not American Islam as our dear imam used to describe it—they have held this raised banner firmly in their hands and have not weakened. This is the issue and this on its own gives hope to the Muslim nations of the world. It is in this respect that we have to shoulder a heavy responsibility. What I have decribed so far is the state of the world, the fragile state of the times, but by recognizing this situation our responsibilities increase—and more than anyone it is the responsibility of you, young people, that has increased. We should construct and and make Iran prosper in such a way as to make it a source of honor for Islam. A weak, poor, illiterate Iran lacking in health care, a stagnant and disunited Iran is not a source of pride for Islam, the Islamic revolution and the islamic movement—on the contrary, such an Iran would become the source of defeat.

And here I shall add a note on the reason why world propaganda tries to link certain problems to Iran which do not pertain to Iran. They sometime say things—one hears them from radios or reads them in statements written by the opponents of the revolution—which are really surprising and make one wonder where they get this [news] from. The reason why they try to link certain nonexistent problems to Iran and to magnify tenfold a minor issue, is because they want people all over the world to become disillusioned about Iran. They want to say this is what Islam is about; this is what the revolution means; the revolution and Islam cannot administer a nation and country and make them happy—this is what they want to say. They ignore the glory, alertness, courage, and non-surrender of the Iranian nation, the enthusiasm of the revolutionary generation, the initiatives and activities and moves toward self-sufficiency—these are realities in Iran which are ignored by them. Yet, if there is, let us say, a shortage of potatoes for a few days, all the radios of the world announce that Iran has a potato shortage problem. This is not because potatoes are important but because it is important for them to show up the tiniest weak point which may exist in Islamic Iran—they become very happy and enjoy themselves if they find a minute weak point.

You should try to construct Iran in such a way as to make it a source of pride to Muslims. [crowd chants: "God is great," "death to arrogance," "death to America," "death to Israel"]

Two subjects should receive greater attention in the country daily. The first is to safeguard Islamic principles, teachings, instructions, and the Islamic appearance of society. This is very important. The enemies, in their propaganda, try to make these remarks the targets of their propaganda bombardments. But do not listen to the enemy, because after all he is your enemy. The Islamic appearance of society must be maintained. This is an Islamic society, and an exemplary Islamic society. The women should be cautious, so should the men. Those who hold responsible positions should be more careful. Those who wear the cloak of the revolution, the same as the clergy, and others who dress in the uniforms attributed to the revolution, should be more careful than others. All members of society should strive to make the face of society an Islamic face. At this point, I would like to mention a vacuum in our society. It is the vacuum of azan [call for Muslim prayers]. In Tehran one does not hear the sound of azan. Why? Azan is an Islamic slogan. At the prayer times and mosques should become full of believers and worshippers. [passage omitted]

The brighter you can make the torch of Islam—of course praise be to God the torch is lit and its light shines all over the world—but you must make it brighter. The brighter you make it, the stronger this great islamic movement will become in the world. No doubt then Satan and the devils will become more displeased with you. Better that way! The more they are displeased with us, the more God will be pleased with us. The farther the satans keep their distance from us, the closer the angels will come to us. The more God is with someone and happier with one's deeds, the more success will come to that person.

Do you think our country and revloution could have gained so much success by now if the gullible, unwise, and highly demanding people had at the beginning of the revolution handed over our revolution on a plate to the U.S. in the name of Islam, under the excuse of: let us strengthen ourselves by the Americans. Those simple-minded people! Do you think that if they had succeeded in their plan, God forbid, to keep the U.S. military advisers in our garrisons—something that they nearly succeeded in achieving until we arrived—a lot more would have happened had we not arrived—if they had managed to maintain links with the United States and if they had succeeded in bringing Iran under the service of Master America with utmost modesty and humbleness, do you think our country and revolution would have had so much success by today? God knows it would have not. By God wherever the superpowers and major powers set foot, they bring misery and black days to its nation [shouts from audience].

Our national honor, our progress, this great movement, this popular enthusiasm and numerous successes which, thanks be to God, the Iranian nation and our governments have so far enjoyed are all due to our separation from, lack of interest in, and our rejection of satanic powers. They are due to our getting closer to God; and this is the key to the solution of all our problems. We should keep God pleased with ourselves; and this should be done by all of us. No one should say that first such and such people should try to win God's satisfaction. There is no first and no second. All of us should try to achieve God's pleasure. God's pleasure can be won through our piety, through shunning sins, through fear of God, is being kind to people's servants, being harsh and hostile to God's enemies. These are the signs of faith. Among the brothers one should easily overlook minor differences; while with enemies one should take account of every difference. [Koranic verse omitted]

You should show humility and servitude toward the believers. This is contrary to engaging in hostile acts against one another. One should act with affection, with forgiveness, with tolerance. This is the meaning of piety. Piety in financial affairs, piety in moral issues, piety in personal issues, piety especially in one's work and profession, piety in political affairs.

You should know that if this nation engages in a movement of piety this will so enhance and heighten the movement of this nation that the world will be amazed. Everywhere we have seen a sign of piety, we have also witnessed the same outcome. Our victories in the battlefronts were achieved in this way. Khorramshahr was recaptured through piety. This eight-year-long war led to the defeat of the enemy through piety and reliance upon God. The enemy was defeated. There was no defeat more disgraceful than the defeat which was inflicted on the enemy in the eight-year-long war. This is no exaggeration. We have repeatedly said that the East, the West, Europe, NATO, and Warsaw [Pact], all and all, the reactionaries of the region, money, weapons and propaganda were poured to the region in order to annex a part of the country or to topple the government or to destroy the Islamic republic, and yet they failed to do so, after eight years of fighting. This was their greatest defeat. It was only through piety that we managed to achieve this success. The same will be true in the future. [passage omitted]

God willing, we will all be able to find a path which God has desired for us. God's peace and blessings be upon you.

International 'Ahl-e Beyt' Conference Held

LD2505035190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] During the third plenary session of the international conference on the Prophet's Household [ahl-e beyt]—peace be upon them—which was held this morning in Hoseyniyeh Ershad, a plan for the setting up an international ahl-e beyt Council by Islamic intellectuals, 'ulema, and scholars from 58 countries of the world was approved.

According to this resolution, the international Ahl-e Beyt Council will be functioning under the direct supervision of the guardian of the cause [vali-e amr] of the Muslims of the world, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, and wil supervise all Islamic activities in cultural, propaganda, preaching, economic, social, and political fields which are carried out throughout the Islamic world.

In this session, propaganda, political, economic, moral-social, and religious seminaries affairs were presented to the conference.

On the basis of these reports, Ayatollah Amini, chairman of the international conference on ahl-e beyt—peace be upon them—in a speech at the end of this morning's plenary session of the conference described the projects proposed by the six committees as very useful.

He said: All the projects and proposals will be submitted to the conference secretariat so that the after careful examination they may be implemented.

Referring to the important proposal made by most committees about the setting up of an international council that will supervise all the affairs of the followers of ahl-e beyt—peace be upon them—he said: This council can propose plans and programs in all fields affecting Muslims and can be a center for leadership, guidance, and coordination of the affairs of the followers of ahl-e beyt.

Ayatollah Jannati, chairman of the propaganda Committee of the ahl-e beyt international conference, stressed in this morning's plenary session the need for vigilance by Muslims, especially the followers of ahl-e beyt—peace be upon them—in confronting the tricks and propaganda conspiracies of the enemies. He emphasized the need for recognizing the conspiracies of world arrogance and said: Now world arrogance has received blows at the hands of Islam and it is necessary for us to recognize the conspiracies of world arrogance and be mobilizing for confronting them. Stressing the need for elucidating the pure Mohammadan Islam—may God's salutation and benediction be upon him and his kin—and clarifying its distinctive features from U.S. islam [interpretation of Islam favoured by the United States] to the Muslims of the world, he said: Wahhabism, with its massive financial strength and numerous capabilities through the building of mosques, the publication and distribution of books, and the training of U.S. pseudoclerics, is trying to portray its form of Islam as the genuine Islam.

Stressing that Wahhabism has directed most of its animosity toward the followers of ahl-e beyt, he said: Through coordinated action we should confront the wave of poisonous Wahhabi propaganda and reply to their empty acousations. At the end of his speech, Ayatollah Jannati referred to the Western cultural invasion, which through its propaganda, is trying to spread moral decadence, to corrupt Muslims, and is every-increasing. He stressed the need for preventing the spread of that culture through inspiration derived from the international conference on ahl-e beyt—peace be upon them.

Ahmad Khomeyni Addresses Conference

LD2505035890 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 24 May 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni was the last speaker at the international conference on the Prophet's Household [ahl-e beyt]. In a speech, he described the special qualities needed by an expert in Islamic theology [mujtahed] from the viewpoint of Imam Khomeyni—may he be admitted to God's paradise. He said: In view of the imam, a mujtahed is a person who has a correct understanding of the government and of society.

Stressing that our system is based on the goals and aspirations of the noble Prophet and the pure imams, he said: The pathfinders of these goals are the great Khomeyni and his disciple, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, esteemed leader of the revolution. Our system will follow the firm orders and indisputable principles that have been enunciated by the founder of the Islamic Republic.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni added: We have become the targets of the world mass media and the intelligence organizations of the East and the West due to our adherence to the noble prophet—God's benedictions and salutations be upon him and his kin—and the pure imams. The war was imposed upon us, and we have been deprived of the great blessing of hajj pilgrimage.

At the last plenary session of the international conference on ahl-e beyt, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution in Iraq also spoke. Referring to the fact that the pure imams regarded the interests of the Islamic ummah as greater than their own, he stressed the need for deciding the strategy of the movement of the followers of ahl-e beyt—peace be upon them—and the defining of general policies, as well as providing support for the existing organizations of the followers of ahl-e beyt, which should be done through careful planning.

In this meeting, al-'Allameh Seyyed Morteza 'Askari also spoke, stressing the need for Islamic unity. He said: The jihad of ahl-e beyt—peace be upon them and their followers—has been for the sake of the establishment of Islamic unity, and this unity cannot be achieved except through adherence to Islamic teachings.

The first international conference on ahl-e beyt came to an end this afternoon.

Ministry Congratulates Yemen as New Flag Hoisted

LD2305231590 Tehran IRNA in English 1058 GMT 23 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA—The new national flag of the Republic of Yemen, formed after the Tuesday [22 May] unification of North and South Yemens, was hoisted above the Yemeni Embassy compound here Tuesday afternoon. The flag was hoisted by the Yemeni charge d'affaires here in a special ceremony which was also attended by the Iranian Foreign Ministry officials.

A ranking Foreign Ministry official congratulated the Yemeni diplomats on the occasion and expressed hope that the unification will lay the foundation for materialisation of the legitimate rights of Yemeni Muslims and for an all-out struggle against the Zionist enemy.

In a related development Iran's Foreign Ministry in a message congratulated Yemeni Muslim brethren on the unification of the two Yemens and announced Iran's recognition of the new government.

The message expressed hope that the Republic of Yemen would be successful in bringing further unity to the Muslim ummah and in confronting enemies of Islam, especially the regime occupying al-Qods [Jerusalem].

Speeches Honor Khorramshahr Liberation Anniversary

Meeting Discusses Reconstruction

LD2205134190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 May 90

[Text] On the threshold of the anniversary of the great epic liberation of Khorramshahr, the Support Headquarters for the Reconstruction of Khorramshahr [Setad-e Mo'in-e Baz-sazi-ye Khorramshahr] met this morning in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

According to the Central News Unit, the meeting was attended by officials from Tehran's Support Headquarters for the Reconstruction of Khorramshahr; a number of dignitaries; the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce; [officials from] Iran's industry and mining [sector]; and the representative of the vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult] to the Red Crescent and the town of Rey. The head of the Khorramshahr Support Headquarters first presented a report about the measures completed or being undertaken by the Headquarters.

After a discussion about ways in which the people of Tehran can increase their participation, about facilities and organization, the mobilization of popular resources, and the division of labor between executive organizations, necessary decisions were adopted.

It was also decided in the meeting that a delegation comprised of Friday imams, officials, dignitaries, [officials from] guilds, and officials of the Chamber of Commerce and Iran's industry and mining should go to the region to see and examine the measures undertaken by Khorramshahr's Support Headquarters to expedite the reconstruction process, and to increase the participation of guilds and the various strata of the people in the reconstruction of Khorramshahr.

President Pays Tribute to Martyrs

NC2405100390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] The cabinet paid tributes to the valor and sacrifices of the combatants of Islam in the saga of the liberation of Khorramshahr. In yesterday's cabinet session, chaired by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president termed 24 May, the day Khorramshahr was liberated, an indelible and unforgettable memory for the nation and a golden page in the history of the revolution and the country.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani termed the extensive and extremely important Bayt ol-Moqaddas operations which culminated in the liberation of Khorramshahr a turning point in the efficiency and capability of the able combatants of Islam. He described the depicting of the magnificent scenes of the holy defense as evidence of the nation's firm determination and deemed the responsibilities of the country's cultural officials to be extremely important.

At this session, Mr. Khatami, minister for culture and Islamic guidance, submitted a report on his visit to some Asian and African countries, and the Education and Training Ministry's program for this summer was also reviewed.

In this session yesterday, the cabinet made the necessary decisions regarding the logistical needs of educational affairs.

President on Battle's Significance

LD2405135890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] On the occasion of the eighth anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr by the able combatants of Islam, the president today addressed a great gathering of forces from the Basij [mobilization], the Corps [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps—IRGC], and the Army, as well as members of various strata of people. Addressing the gathering in Tehran's Martyr Shirudi stadium, the president paid tribute to the ever-present martyrs of liberation of Khorramshahr. Our correspondent reports about that gathering.

[Correspondent] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in today's ceremonies marking the anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr—taking place in Martyr Shirudi stadium in presence of personnel from the Basij, IRGC, Army, and security forces, as well as esteemed families of martyrs, and military and civilian officials—addressed the able combatants of Islam, saying: At the same time that U.S. espionage satellites were carefully controlling your movements, before the eyes of alien eyes, by the liberation of Khorramshahr you attracted the glare of superpowers, thereby earning this great honor for Islam. I congratulate that victory to all our dear combatants, who were the lions of battlefronts, and were the defenders of Islam. We hope that this historical day, which has rightly been termed as the Combatants Day, may become a source of inspiration and movement for the history of Islam and for the future of the oppressed.

The president added: The anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr has given the Iranian nation the opportunity to once again rejuvenate the splendid memories from the period of sacred defense, as well as once again remember the value and the great role of the Armed Forces and the selfless combatants, while refreshing the memories from the luminous history of the period of sacred defense. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then paid tribute to the role of the armed and security forces during the course of the imposed war. He stated: Before the Bayt ol-Moqaddas and Fath ol-Mobin operations the majority of world observers believed that the revolution was in decline. However, later they found out that after the liberation of Khorramshahr, the current of the Islamic uprising was on the way toward its peak. Your victory in Khorramshahr disappointed arrogance and the enemies of Islam.

The president then pointed to the consequences of the liberation of Khorramshahr, saying: On that day when on the waters of the Persian Gulf warships, aircraft, and supermodern aircraft carrier naval units of the aggressive U.S. Government literally began fighting against you dear selfless devotees of Islam, opening direct fire on you, on that day we witnessed the ultimate humiliation of arrogance in its confrontation against the revolution. We also witnessed the magnanimity of Islam in fighting against arrogance, while the world's sharp eyes were registering your powerful movements.

Addressing the Armed Forces, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: In future your responsibilities are even greater than in the past. It would be simplistic to think that with the extinguishing of fire of war on the fronts, the fire of grudge against Islam has also been put out in the filthy hearts of the enemies of Islam. Their grudge has increased, and they are now more frightened of your vigilance and constructiveness than before. They are very upset about reconstruction of damaged facilities. I am certain that the leaders of global blasphemy cannot at all be satisfied with an Islamic government existing on this globe that has armed forces whose purpose is defending the oppressed and the deprived, and who are self-reliant and independent.

The president of our country pointed to the experiences and the revolutionary spirit of the Armed Forces, and said: You should know that the people and the leadership have vested their hopes in you, and if today they adopt their clear stances with such courage and bravery, it is because they feel your presence alongside and behind themselves. Therefore such a hope must be sustained. In conclusion Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: On the eve of the anniversary of the demise of his holiness Imam Khomeyni—may his dust be sanctified—we now have this honor after the passage of one year to be able to tell our imam: O dear imam, do not worry about the revolution, and be confident that your ummah, IRGC, Army, Basij and security forces, as well as the country's officials will continue your path, while benefitting from the bright rays of your guidances, and they will satisfy your soul.

I [correspondent] should add that the Basij members were wearing headbands and armbands inscribed with the phrase: There is no god, but God. They commemorated the braveries and sacrifices of Islamic combatants. They also once again renewed their allegiance with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i—the esteemed leader and commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

Khamene'i: Battle 'Turning Point'

LD2405153790 Tehran IRNA in English 1303 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Terhan, May 24 IRNA—The leader of the Islamic Republic today underlined the need for the armed forces' readiness in terms of training, organization, equipment, and arms. Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i addressing a ceremony on the occasion of the 8th anniversary of the liberation of the southern port city of Khorramshahr from Iraqi occupation forces, also conferred fatah (victory) medals on some military commanders.

The commander-in-chief of the armed forces described liberation of Khorramshar on this day nine years ago as a "turning point" in the history of the Islamic revolution. "With the recapture of Khorramshahr, the face of the world was changed and the colonial powers, which could not believe in the tremendous power of the Islamic revolution and our people's profound Islamic move, shook to their very foundations" he said.

"The Islamic revolution and the combatant people of Iran have demonstrated that they can in no way come to terms with domination, discrimination and oppression, nor do they recognize the corrupt systems of the world powers," Ayatollah Khamene'i pointed out.

He paid tributes to the late Imam Khomeyni for never retreating from his position and thus frustrating the enemies when the world's two powers poles directed their arms, wealth and propaganda machines against the will of Iran's determined muslims and in favour of Ba'athist Iraq during the 8-year war against the Islamic Republic.

The leader pointed that that at present the Iranian people are more prepared, more powerful and more joyful" than ever before.

The ayatollah called on the armed forces to maintain their combat prowess, observe military disciplines and be ready to foil any covetious glance cast by the enemies against the independence or the territorial integrity of the Islamic homeland.

Editorial on Need for Iran To Serve as Model

NC2305104990 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 29 Apr 90 pp 1,8

[Editorial: "No Power Can"]

[Excerpts] Ideologues believe that history is cyclical. [passage omitted] Developments in the East bloc may be the best example of this view. The cycle of communism started in our era and lasted 70 years. But current conditions have actually brought communism to an impasse, and new developments will relegate it to the history books. We do not accept this view entirely, since we believe that it only applies to materialistic developments and ignores spiritual developments. [passage omitted]

The emergence of the Islamic revolution allowed other nations to hope that they would be able to rely on their firm beliefs and accelerate their search for salvation.

Naturally, the persistent movement of Islamic thought takes both the soul and the body of man into account and considers the gradual perfection of both as its final objective or way to salvation.

Under present conditions, the Islamic Republic of Iran—as the savior of oppressed mankind—has unlocked the will and divine power of nations and has accelerated their movements, despite the wishes of the oppressive powers of the world.

To help this spiritual development continue at a fast pace, more rapid steps should be taken to present a model. This requires that we remain a firm and strong power and an independent force in the world.

It is not an easy task to present a model in view of the overt and covert pressures from the dominating powers. Doing so demands the help of everyone, the people and the officials. The invincibility of the Islamic system and resistance in the face of various pressures and limitations and in the face of acts of aggression are signs of victory and the continuation and gradual perfection of the movement and Islam.

Thus, the preservation of the proud presence of the Islamic system in the world means strong relations among nations. Even if they hold out for a long time, governments will ultimately have no alternative but giving in to the people. However, this does not mean that we should forget about relations with governments. Relations will be effective in helping us achieve the divine objectives of the revolution and building a model Islamic society.

Once we are able to offer a model Islamic society by preserving religion and independence and promoting justice and welfare, no power in the world can force us to accept its domination.

'Zafar-2' Anti-Narcotics Exercises Conclude

LD2305085890 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 22 May 90

[Text] Zafar-2 Exercises, which were launched all over the country for 10 days beginning on 12 May in the form of the third stage of the val-'Adiyat Project to decisively combat the merchants of death and addicts by the Islamic Revolution Committee, ended.

The deputy director of the intelligence and operations of the Islamic Revolution Committee, in an interview with our corespondent, announcing the above added: Guards attached to the Islamic Revolution Committee succeeded, in these exercises, to utilize reports by the people to track down 17 networks engaged in narcotics preparation and distribution. They arrested those involved with these networks. They have arrested 960 narcotics smugglers as well as 8,000 addicts. They have confiscated 19 pieces of arms of various types and munition.

He added: The guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee carried out 53 operations comprising search and patrol in Zafar-2 exercises. Of these operations 34 operations involved mopping up of the infested areas and 10 operations involved armed encounters with the merchants of death.

He said: Among other achievements of the said exercises one is the discovery of and confiscation of 3,274 kgs of narcotics of various kinds, including 1,546 kg of morphine and 1,722 kg of opium. He also stressed the need for continuing an untiring campaign against the narcotics smugglers as well as addicts. He added: Such a campaign is not confined to the framework of exercises; it will have to go on all year long.

Deputies Call for Boosting Islamic Associations

LD2305091590 Tehran IRNA in English 1539 GMT 22 May 90

[Text] Tehran, may 22, IRNA—A letter signed by 140 Majles deputies today called for strengthening of Islamic associations at universities. Read at the Majles open session Tuesday [22 May], the letter asked the Supreme Council for Cultural Revolution to provide the associations of Muslims students with an opportunity for constructive activities at universities.

The deputies also cautioned against "rootless political groups", which might be formed at universities to sow discord among students and to undermine Islamic associations.

Islamic States Given Precendence in Recruiting

LD2205132790 Tehran IRNA in English 1129 GMT 22 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—Labor Minister Hoseyn Kamali said today that in selecting foreign contractors, Iran gives priority to Islamic states and then to countries which have no colonialistic record. Speaking at a 3-day seminar on recruitment of foreign nationals opened here Tuesday [22 May], Kamali noted that for the five-year develoment plan, the Islamic Republic would enter into negotiations with certain countries for recruiting the needed manpower.

He listed three groups of foreign nationals working in Iran, first foreign companies mostly comprising of European, Japanese and Asian firms which are performing overseas and development operations and had entered Iran through legal procedures.

The second, he added, are those who had migrated into Iran for political and social reasons such as Iraqi and Afghan refugees.

The third group were those who due to poverty and starvation had entered Iran, Kamali said, adding that occupation status of this group should soon be specified and legalized.

Interior Ministry Recognizes Zoroastrian Groups

LD2205130490 Tehran IRNA in English 1055 GMT 22 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—Ten Zoroastrian associations are declared legal by the Interior Ministry, it was announced here today. This brings to 17 the number of associations and groups of the religious minorities throughout the country which have so far received legal status. All the 10 associations are in Yazd, central Iran, where majority of the Zoroastrians live.

The constitutional law of the Islamic Republic gives official recognition to Zoroastrians, Christians and Jews allowing all the three to engage in political and religious activities.

The Interior Ministry has so far issued permits for seven parties including the Society of Combatant Ulema, the Association of Muslim Artists and Writers, the Islamic Guidance Party, the Association of Tabriz Combatant Ulema, Islamic Fedayeen (Martyr Navab Safavi Group), the Women's Society of the Islamic Republic and the Islamic Center for the Graduates of the Indian Subcontinent.

Pakistan

Bhutto Briefs on Arab Islamic Support on Kashmir

BK2405120690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that leaders of the Islamic countries she visited have extended full support to Pakistan's proposal for resolving the Kashmir issue through negotiations and said that they wholeheartedly support the independence, security and territorial integrity of Pakistan. She was addressing a crowded news conference in Islamabad today after returning home last night following a nine-day visit to Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, North Yemen, Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia.

She said leaders of these countries expressed grave concern over the situation of the Kashmiri people and the serious threat to peace in South Asia and pledged their wholehearted support to Pakistan's efforts to maintain peace in the region. She said a complete understanding exists between leaders of the Islamic countries on the causes of the current disturbances in occupied Kashmir, adding they are unanimous a durable solution of the issue can be achieved only if it is resolved according to the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

The prime minister said Pakistan has been assured the Islamic Arab countries will extend their full support if Pakistan is targeted for aggression. Leaders of these countries have categorically assured that Pakistan will not be left alone in a crisis.

Cites Possible Indian Aggression

BK2405131890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1313 GMT 24 May 90

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, May 24 (AFP)—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto charged Thursday [24 May] that there was a "real possibility" that New Delhi would use the Kashmir dispute as an excuse to attack Pakistan. Ms. Bhutto also called on New Delhi to "stop the genocide" in Kashmir, where Indian security forces are trying to put down a Muslim separatist campaign.

"We have reports that India is using Kashmir as a pretext for aggression against Pakistan," she said following a tour of eight Muslim nations aimed at rallying support for Islamabad. "The threats are grave and there is a real possibility of aggression," she said, in her most explicit warning to date of a possible fourth war with India. Pakistan and India have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir.

Describing the trip as "very successful," she told a news conference that the Islamic countries expressed full support for the Kashmiri cause and gave assurances they would stand by Pakistan if it was attacked by India. "We shall never be left alone in our hour of peril," she said.

The premier charged that India had intensified its military buildup and was preparing to take advantage of political changes under way around the globe. "India is thinking that the world is changing, that communism is in a state of flux. It is time for her to exert its own domination," she said, explaining the alleged Indian motive.

Tension has soared between the South Asian neighbors with New Delhi accusing Pakistan of arming and training Muslim militants in the Indian section of Kashmir who stepped up their violent campaign against Indian rule six months ago. Pakistan, which administers the other section of Kashmir, has denied the charges but has reiterated its political support for the militants.

Ms. Bhutto said India was levelling accusations at Pakistan over Kashmir because it was running out of options. "They don't know what to do. Troops just go and search the youth and shoot," she said. "It is playing on the theme of war to sidetrack the issue."

She asked the Indian Government to objectively analyse whether a conflict would bring the desired results. "People are willing to die," she said, but war "will not resolve the Kashmir issue, it will affect stability of the region."

Ms. Bhutto again called upon India to open a dialogue aimed at settling the Kashmir dispute "in accordance with the aspirations" of the residents of India's only Muslim-majority state.

Lashing out at the "reign of terror and brutal campaign unleashed" by the Indian forces, Ms. Bhutto warned New Delhi that "no amount of repression can extinguish the fire of popular upsurge in Indian-held Kashmir."

"Plebiscite is written on the hearts and minds of the Kashmiri people," she said, echoing Pakistan's demand for Kashmiris to be allowed to hold a plebiscite on the future of the territory. India maintains that United Nations resolutions calling for a plebiscite have been superseeded.

Ms. Bhutto also deplored the assasination Monday [21 May] of Jammu and Kashmir State's high priest, Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq, and the subsequent "massacre" of 47 people when Indian troops opened fire on an impromptu funeral procession. She said she rejected Indian charges that Pakistan had infiltrated gunmen among the mourners to fire on security forces.

"It is a popular uprising, men and women are coming out," she said, and called on New Delhi to "stop the genocide."

Ms. Bhutto, whose army has about one-fifth of the Indian Army's manpower and equipment, said Islamic countries are also expected to come out in support of Pakistan's stand on Kashmir when their foreign ministers meet in Cairo.

Ms. Bhutto hoped the 45-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting would be held "soon after" the annual Muslim pilgrimage, or hajj, in July.

More on Press Conference Remarks

BK2405164490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 May 90

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said leaders of the Islamic countries she visited have extended full support to Pakistan's proposal for resolving the Kashmir issue through negotiations and expressed their wholehearted support to the independence, security and territorial integrity of Pakistan. She was addressing a crowded news conference in Islamabad today after returning home last night following a nine-day visit to eight brotherly Islamic countries of the Middle East and North Africa. [passage omitted]

The prime minister said she was assured everywhere she visited that Pakistan will be supported on the Kashmir issue at the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers conference, which now is expected to be conducted after the hajj [first week of July]. Pakistan intends to present a resolution at the conference on resolving the Kashmir issue and ending the possibility of war. The prime minister said Pakistan has not closed its option to refer the Kashmir issue to the United Nations. However, India is expected to start a dialogue with Pakistan on the issue under the Simla agreement, thereby eliminating the need to take the issue to other forums. She expressed the view the conflict over Kashmir will not bring any desired results for either India or Pakistan. On the contrary, it will increase the bitterness, she said.

The prime minister said she intends to send a special envoy to the United States in response to a message from that country, which was carried by U.S. special envoy Gates earlier this week.

The prime minister accused India of carrying out genocide in the occupied Kashmir, and said the systematic killing of youths in Kashmir constitutes part of the Indian plan to subjugate the people in the region. She said investigation should be carried out simultaneously on Indian charges against Pakistan, as well as Pakistan's allegation of genocide against India. She referred to reports the Indian government is using the Kashmir situation as a pretext for aggression against Pakistan. India feels it is time for it to establish its domination and increase tension in a changing world. It also appears to be talking of war in a bid to divert global attention from the happenings in the occupied Kashmir.

Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan will continue its political, diplomatic and moral support for the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people, a matter on which all Pakistanis are united. She said her government will forge national consensus on the issue and regular consultations will be conducted with opposition leaders, and they will be sent abroad to project Pakistan's stance.

On Afghanistan, the prime minister said consensus and unanimity of views was noted on the peaceful solution of the issue in all the countries she visited. We decided to conduct regular consultations on the issue, she said.

The prime minister supported convening an international conference on the Middle East and said durable peace cannot be achieved until the occupied territories are returned to the Arab countries and a homeland for Palestinians established. The prime minister said the Islamic countries consider Pakistan an active champion of the cause of Islamic countries at international forums, and they would like to see the continued growth in their cooperation with Pakistan in economic, social, scientific and technical fields. She said agreement was reached during her trip on a number of concrete steps for economic cooperation with Islamic countries.

On the question of forming a national government, the prime minister said she feels the proposal is not feasible now.

On the incidents of lawlessness and sabotage, the prime minister said these are due to Indian interference in Sindh, and for some time now, Indian agents have been active in Punjab as well. So far as Sindh is concerned, the provincial government has decided anyone playing with the lives of innocent people will not be allowed protection by any political party.

Benazir Bhutto said the various aspects of national security will be considered in the new federal budget. She said Minister of State for Finance Ehsanul Haq Piracha will present the budget in the National Assembly. She drew the nation's attention to the threats against the country and said we should be ready to make sacrifices. She said there surely has been an improvement in the national economy during the last year. However, the current situation has forced a review of the budget.

Opposition: Bhutto Government, Family Corrupt

BK2505102290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0956 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] Islamabad, May 25 (AFP)—Pakistan's opposition has launched a new campaign for the resignation of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, accusing her government and family of rampant corruption. The Combined Opposition Parties (COP), at a convention Thursday [24 May] in Rawalpindi, also criticized President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who has refused to declare emergency rule in strife-torn Sindh Province.

Cop Chief Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi called Ms. Bhutto's administration Pakistan's "worst ever government, compulsively corrupt from top to bottom." The convention demanded the resignation of the government and the removal of Ms. Bhutto's father-in-law, Hakim Ali Zardari, from the National Assembly's Accounts Committee.

Ms. Bhutto dismissed the corruption allegations as "baseless and malicious," but set up a commission under her political advisor Malik Mohammad Qasim to investigate the charges, officials said in remarks published Friday [25 May].

The COP convention—attended by opposition leaders, MPs [Members of Parliament] and provincial officials—had demanded a probe by a tribunal of supreme court judges. The opposition charged that Ms. Bhutto, who took office in December 1988, had spent excessive sums to revamp her official residence and plane. They also accused the government of "bribing" its allies by alotting them land for hotels and industry. And they accused Ms. Bhutto's husband, businessman Asif Ali Zardari, of commercial irregularities.

Ms. Bhutto rejected the opposition's criticism and blasted what she called their "immature and irresponsible behaviour," an official said. A spokesman for Mr. Zardari rejected the "concoctions" he said were aimed at "harrassing the prime minister's husband and causing mental distress to the family." Mr. Zardari reserved the right [to] sue, the spokesman warned.

Pakistan's 75-year-old president, who had largely been spared from oppostion attacks, was a target of criticism at the Rawalpindi convention. "The time of expediencies has passed," Mr. Jatoi said, and reminded Mr. Ishaq Khan of his "constitutional responsibilities." The president has repeatedly rejected the opposition's demand to impose state of emergency in the southern province of Sindh in view of ethnic violence that has claimed hundreds of lives this year.

Mr. Jatoi said that if corruption was an "epidemic on one side, Sindh was burning on the other. In fact Sindh is already in ashes. There is a virtual civil war. Law enforcement agencies are being fought back and innocent people being killed."

Indian Commandos Allegedly Killed Kashmiri Leader

BK2505005090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1800 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Islamabad, May 24 (AFP)—The Indian Army's Black Cat commandos assassinated Kashmir religious leader Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq, while a simultaneous attempt on the life of another cleric failed, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) said Thursday [24 May]. The agency, quoting "reliable reports" from the Indian side of the border, said the commandos tried to kill Agha Mousvi, a prominent religious leader, on Monday [21 May], "the day they assassinated Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq in Srinagar," summer capital of Indian-held Kashmir.

The Black Cats raided Agha Mousvi's residence but "his guards resisted and saved his life after a heavy exchange of fire," APP said in a rare dispatch on the turmoil in Kashmir. It said the Black Cats had planned to murder prominent leaders in the valley, believing "this would create disunity among the freedom fighters and slow down the liberation movement" in the Himalayan state, claimed by both India and Pakistan. But the "instant reaction by the Kashmiris set at naught the sinister motives of the Indian Government," the agency said.

Paper Comments on Outcome of Gates Mission

BK2305114390 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 May 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Gates Mission"]

[Text] Washington's special envoy Robert Gates has concluded his three-day peace mission to the subcontinent. He was reported to have brought some "concrete proposals" for defusing tension between India and Pakistan, but neither the details of his peace plan, nor the exact response of the leaders of the two countries with whom his delegation conferred at length in Islamabad and New Delhi are known. The US diplomatic sources in New Delhi were, however, prompt in disclaiming that Washington had any intention of mediating between India and Pakistan. And if the purpose of the exercise was to induce India and Pakistan to talk to each other, Mr. V.P. Singh has laid his cards on the table. "There can be no dialogue with Pakistan so long as it continues to back subversion and terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir" he told his American visitors. Notwithstanding the fact that Islamabad is not prone to doing such plain speaking with the Americans and is normally overawed by the presence of any emissary from its "great benefactor", perhaps it was time for the government to call a spade a spade and tell Washington's envoy that there would be no compromise on Kashmir.

The nation has the right to know what Mr. Gates told Islamabad and what reply has been given to him. The Americans have been playing a dubious game on Kashmir and there is a genuine concern that the so-called "high-powered" delegation was sent to secure peace between India and Pakistan at the expense of bartering away Kashmir's freedom. Does the US recognise Kashmir as a dispute between India and Pakistan is the crucial question. As long as the Americans do not take a principled position on this issue, their efforts to make peace in the region would be construed as an attempt to Legitimise Indian hegemony. Their aversion to "internationalising" the Kashmir issue is no secret and for them the Kashmir uprising is a matter which ought to be tackled by New Delhi alone. Such a disposition should hardly be a source of satisfaction for Islamabad which, ironically appears to have welcomed the American initiative.

Paper: Prepare for 'Ugly Eventuality' With India

BK1805103490 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 May 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Preparing for the Worst"]

[Text] In the latest of the series of accusations being made by Indian leaders against Pakistan, Prime Minister V.P. Singh has claimed that Pakistan troops are massing close to the border. The statement comes at a time when Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is away on a tour of eight Muslim countries to seek their support in helping to defuse the near-explosive situation brewing between India and Pakistan as a result of the struggle of the freedom fighters in occupied Kashmir, to shed the shackles of Indian enslavement. It also coincides with the announcement of the visit of President Bush's envoy to the two countries, being despatched in an effort to persuade them to resolve the issue through political dialogue. The visit scheduled for May 19-21, is, however, ill-timed since Ms Bhutto and most of her Cabinet will still be out of the country.

In a way, perhaps, it is just as well that President Bush's envoy would not be able to meet our Prime Minister. His time would be better spent in convincing Mr Singh to see reason and come to the negotiating table rather than going to the battlefield. For its part, Pakistan has always insisted on the right of the Kashmiris to self-determination through a plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations according to Resolutions on the record of the international body. To that end, it has been Islamabad's constant endeavour to ensure that the Kashmir issue is resolved in a peaceable manner. The intentions have always been sincere, never aggressive.

Whenever India has been faced with internal dissent of a serious nature such as in the Punjab and now in Kashmir, it has always barefacedly and unjustifiably accused Pakistan of engineering the disorder. The truth of the matter is that when people get fed up with being oppressed and suppressed, they do rise up against tyranny and what is happening in Kashmir today is no exception to this rule. No amount of apportioning of undue blame anywhere other than at home will take care of India's woes. It is high time the Indian leadership indulged in some honest introspection.

Ever since the invalid "agreement" on the accession of the State of Jammu and Kashmir between India and the then Maharaja Hari Singh in 1947, while Pakistan has striven hard to ensure that the Kashmiris determine their own fate through unfettered expression of their will, India has been procrastinating and, when that has failed, it has aggressed against this country. In the present atmosphere of global detente, a conciliatory attitude is the most commendable of things, but there is a limit to the amount of provocation any country can tolerate. As such, it would be extremely wise on the part of our leadership to remain vigilant and ready for an ugly eventuality which we do not want but which a belligerent neighbour seems determined to impose on us.

Shooting, Arson in Parts of Hyderabad Reported

BK1905110190 Karachi DAWN in English
19 May 90 pp 1,4

[Text] Hyderabad, May 18: Two persons, including a minor girl, were killed and over 23 others; including three members of security forces and two women, received bullet injuries here on Friday [18 May] raising the death toll to 18 in the fresh wave of violence that has continued unabated for the fifth consecutive day.

For the first time since 1987, rockets were fired in which a seven-year-old girl Saba was killed.

According to reports, three rockets fell near the garden of late Mir Rasool Bux Talpur, former Governor of Sindh, in Phuleli area creating terror in the densely-populated area. The other casualty of the day was Moharram Bhatti who was shot dead in Tando Thoro.

Among the injured, four persons received bullet injuries in Islamabad, two were injured in Bhains Colony, two in Pinjrapur, three in Tando Wali Mohammad, two in Firdous Colonyu and ten more were injured in sporadic firing at different places. Three members of the security forces, namely Mehmood Khan, Noor Mohammad and Kohara Khan received bullet injuries in Liaquat Colony when miscreants fired on them from their roof tops.

Ten shops, five in Phuleli, four on Prince Ali Road and one in Habib Centre Sakhi Pir Road were also put to torch while a narcotic den in Tahirabad was ransacked by an angry mob and set on fire.

One curfew break from 1 to 3 p.m. was given for Juma [Friday] prayers. Nevertheless, firing during curfew hours continued in Liaquat Colony Tando Wali Mohammad, Guru Nagar, Phuleli, Tilik-In-cline, Hirabad, Bhutti Goth, Firdous Colony, Kali Mori, Liberty Market, Khai Road, Faqir-o-Pir and other places.

Trains fired at: Punjab bound Karachi Express and Karachi bound Shalimar Express were fired upon by the miscreants near Dehtha Railway Station, 15 km from here on Friday.

According to Railway officials, three passengers of Karachi Express were injured but they continued their journey after treatment. Many a window panes of Shalimar Express were broken but no one was injured.

Due to the incidents, Punjab bound Zulfiqar Express and Shaheen Express were delayed at the Hyderabad Railway Station.

Attack condemned: The Zonal Organizer Kanwar Naveed and members of the organizing committee have condemned rocket attack on populated area of the city. In a statement on Friday they said, rocket attack, the first incident of its kind in the history of Pakistan which clearly indicated that Hyderabad had been completely handed over to the terrorists. They appealed to the people to remain peaceful.

Hospital visited: Mayor, Mr Aftab Ahmed Shaikh MNA [Member of National Assembly] and Mr Shafiq Qureshi MPA [Member of Provincial Assembly] who visited Bhittai Hospital on Thursday have expressed grave concern over the acute shortage of life-saving drugs in the hospital they said, demanded immediate supply of medicines.

Press note: The District Magistrate, Hyderabad said in a Press note that the fire brigades were fired upon when the vehicles were sent to extinguish the fire that was lit by some miscreants in Phuleli and Market areas.

Curfew was also imposed in the exempted areas of Police Station Phuleli.

No curfew relaxation will be given on Saturday in the curfew imposed areas, the Press note said.

Strict orders have been issued to shoot all the curfew violaters and miscreants seen firing.

One main accused involved in the murder of Prof. Usman Memon has also been arrested.

Hashish Seizure Called 'World's Biggest Ever'

BK2305124690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1130 GMT 23 May 90

[Text] Karachi, May 23 (AFP)—Pakistani authorities have seized over 30 tonnes of high-quality hashish hidden in a fake military trailer, officials said Wednesday [23 May], in what they called the "world's biggest ever" hashish seizure. Agha Sikander Ali, regional director of the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board (PNCB), said the drug seized early Tuesday [22 May] in Karachi was destined for Europe. PNCB agents, working on a tip from a transport wing of the Army, recovered 30,640 kilograms (66,408 pounds) of hashish and arrested the driver of the trailer after spotting it in Karachi's Malir area, Mr. Ali said. They also recovered a Kalashnikov assault rifle from the driver, identified as Noor Khan of Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province.

The 13-meter (40-foot) trailer with a fake Army registration number was shuttling between Peshawar, bordering Afghanistan, and Karachi, Mr. Ali said. The drug was concealed in "professionally packed" medicine boxes, fully labeled with the name of the manufacturer and the sole agent. The boxes were wrapped in plastic fertilizer bags, he added.

Mr. Ali said the preliminary investigations show that the consignment was destined for Europe from this port city. He claimed that it belonged to a drug baron who was being sought, but he did not name the suspect.

Pakistan's frontier with Afghanistan and Iran is a major drug trafficking zone and it is known as the "gold crescent." According to local newsline magazine, 30 per cent of the world's 300 billion dollar annual narcotics trade originates or passes through Pakistan. Officials maintain that most of the drug passing through Pakistan comes from Afghanistan.

Sri Lanka

LTTE, Justice Minister Meet on Northeast Issue

BK2405113290 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Minister of Justice A.C.S. Hameed, who is also the chairman of the Northeast Peace Committee, met LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leaders in Jaffna recently. They discussed the present situation in the north and the east. The talks focused largely on the security situation in the area and the question of bringing about a better and greater understanding between the LTTE and the law enforcement authorities. They discussed at length ways and means of implementing expeditiously the rehabilitation program and strengthening of the administrative machinery in the area.

The LTTE delegation told Mr. Hameed that they were unhappy about the government's talks with the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] who, they said, did not represent the aspirations of the Tamil-speaking people.

Mr. Hameed explained that the government is committed to resolving all issues through consultation, compromise, and consensus, and for this purpose, consultation with all groups is essential. It is in this context that the government had discussions with the EPRLF. Mr. Hameed stressed that the government's talking with the EPRLF in no way diminished or devalued the importance of the negotiations that the government was having with the LTTE. The future of the Sinhalese and Muslims in the north and the east was also discussed. Mr. Hameed told the LTTE delegation that in the final political settlement, it was imperative that all ethnic groups in the north and the east should be able to retain their identities and follow their pursuits in a democratic environment.

The LTTE assured Mr. Hameed that they would extend their fullest cooperation in finding solutions to resolve all outstanding problems. The talks will be continued next week. The LTTE delegation comprised Mahendraraja alias Mahattya, Dr. Anton Balasingham, Yogaratnam, Balu, and Miss Jaya of the Women's Liberation Front.

Opposition Criticizes Colombo on Rights Abuses

BK2405152890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1445 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Colombo, May 24 (AFP)—Sri Lankan opposition MPs on Thursday [24 May] reiterated charges of widespread human rights abuses and urged Colombo to appoint a committee to probe the disappearances of large numbers of people. "Parents have lost children. Large numbers have disappeared. We don't know their whereabouts," Vasudeva Nanayakkara told Parliament during a debate on extending the nationwide state of emergency for another month.

"If the government says this happened without its knowledge, then why not appoint a committee where witnesses can come and give evidence about massacres," said Mr. Nanayakkara, an MP from the left-wing Nava Sama Samaji Party. "There are ministers and MPs who have lost their relatives in massacres," he added.

Mr. Nanayakkara has said some 30,000 people were killed last year in Sri Lanka.

C.V. Gooneratne, an MP from the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, the main opposition group, said the entire world knew about alleged human rights violations by the government. He said two journalists had fled the country after a tip-off from a senior official, and that Tamil MP Sam Thambimuttu was murdered shortly before travelling to the United States and Britain to talk on alleged human rights abuses.

Mr. Nanayakkara said thousands of people were in custody and that they should either be brought before courts, if they were being sentenced, or released. Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne told Parliament during April's emergency debate that laws would be amended to keep some 4,000 to 5,000 rebels in government custody for the rest of their lives.

Opposition MPs have previously accused pro-government vigilante groups of responsibility for the disappearance of hundreds of people at the height of an anti-government campaign by Sinhalese rebels in 1989.

Mr. Nanayakkara also alleged there was no freedom or fundamental rights. He said he had written two letters to President Ranasinghe Premadasa on this matter, but had not as yet received a reply.

Calling on the government to show some feeling and sympathy, Mr. Nanayakkara said setting up a committee to investigate the disappearances would enable people to give evidence in secret and security.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Vincent Perera, who moved the motion for the extension of emergency, justified it on the ground that subversives had killed 20 people during the past month, although rebel violence had abated.